

Basel, 17 December 2009

Roche presents Building 1, its new main office building in Basel

Today Roche is unveiling the plans for Building 1, the new office building that the company intends to build at its Basel site. The project, which will accommodate some 1900 attractively designed workplaces, is the alternative to the "Twist 2 Spirals" scheme that the company decided not to continue a year ago. It meets all Roche's requirements in terms of functionality and engineering.

Work in the year ahead will focus on official approval processes, and the aim will be to finalise the legal aspects of the development plan and obtain approval for the new building.

"Roche needs a new office building in Basel", commented Roche CEO Severin Schwan. "We are convinced that having all the company's departments – Research, Development, Production, Marketing and Corporate – close to each other will be crucial in ensuring that they work together successfully. That's why we will be bringing the 1,800-plus employees who currently work in offices all over town back to the main site."

"The new building is a harmonious fit with the rest of our site and meets all our requirements in terms of functionality and engineering", added Matthias M. Baltisberger, Head of Roche's site in Basel. "The new office building will enable us to offer our employees attractive workplaces and a top-quality infrastructure."

The new building continues the predominantly white colour scheme that is typical of the Roche site and which has also been adopted for the research and development building currently being built on Basel's Wettsteinallee. Both new buildings have been designed by Herzog and de Meuron and tie in with the architectural idiom defined by Otto Salvisberg. The new office building thus continues the longstanding tradition of high-quality industrial architecture that characterises site development at Roche.

The office high-rise in brief:

Functions

- 1900 workplaces
- Auditorium (500 seats)
- Cafeteria

-Communication zones

Technical data and costs

- 41storeys, 175 m high
- 76'000 m² floor space
- Costs: approx. 550 million Swiss francs
- Energy efficiency: Swiss Minergie standard
- Earthquake-resistant construction

Timeline

- Official processes and demolition of old building: 2010/2011
- Scheduled start on site: 2012
- Scheduled completion: 2015

About site development at Roche

Current site development at Roche Basel continues to be based on a planning strategy that guarantees maximum flexibility and allows the company to adapt to its ever-changing needs. The strategy aims to bring together the global and corporate functions on the site area south of Grenzacherstrasse, while the infrastructure-intensive research, development and production units will be located on the area north of the road. Apart from meeting operational requirements, Roche attaches top priority, as with all its new-build schemes, to upholding the high standards of industrial architecture for which it is renowned.

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes management. Roche's personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2008, Roche had over 80,000 employees worldwide and invested almost 9 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 45.6 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche has a majority stake in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information: www.roche.com.

All trademarks used or mentioned are protected by law.

Further information

-Pictures of the high-rise (available from 6 p.m.): <http://download.roche.com/selection/20091217>

Roche Group Media Relations

Phone: +41 61 688 8888 / e-mail: basel.mediaoffice@roche.com

- Daniel Piller (Head of Roche Group Media Relations)
- Alexander Klauser
- Martina Rupp
- Nina Schwab-Hautzinger
- Claudia Schmitt