



MEDIA RELEASE of 7 June 2019

## Laying the uptownBasel foundation stone: a quantum leap for the industry

**On 7 June 2019, guests from the fields of business, science and politics attended the foundation stone laying ceremony for the "uptownBasel" site in Arlesheim (BL). A competence centre for Industry 4.0 is being built on what is currently the largest construction site in northwestern Switzerland. "uptownBasel" brings leading companies to the economic region of Basel to work in a networked manner. The first leases have been signed. Next year, the first on-site experts will already be racking their brains over the innovations of tomorrow.**

The successful implementation of Industry 4.0 is vitally important for Switzerland as a business location. "uptownBasel" continues apace: The smart manufacturing hub in northwestern Switzerland, which will provide around 2,000 jobs, is scheduled to be built by 2025 on the roughly 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> Schoren site in Arlesheim BL, currently the largest construction site in the region. The investment of CHF 400 to 500 million is being handled by the family office of the long-standing President of the Basel Chamber of Commerce, Thomas Staehelin.

### Laying the foundation stone with the cantonal government

On 7 June 2019, the official foundation stone laying ceremony took place, with the participation of government councillors Sabine Pegoraro and Thomas Weber, National Councillor Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter and around 100 invited guests. Thomas Staehelin, investor and Chairman of the Board of uptown Basel AG, on his vision: "We want to stimulate innovation processes and thus carefully manage the development of our site. We see ourselves as a source of inspiration and are creating space for companies that want to jointly shape the industry of the future." The development and enhancement of the site is a great opportunity for the canton of Basel-Landschaft, says Government Councillor Thomas Weber: "The competence centre for Industry 4.0 represents a quantum leap for the development of Basel-based industry. 'uptownBasel' is the place where the future of modern industrial manufacturing begins." "A further chapter is being written in industrial history," summarises National Councillor Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter.

### Seven building stages until 2025

The Schoren site, where the energy company Alioth once built locomotives for the Swiss federal railways, has several advantages. It is the ideal location for the future project, being well developed and in the immediate vicinity of the regional research centres. The





competence centre will comprise seven production halls and 35,000 m<sup>2</sup> of office space. New halls will be built by 2025 and existing buildings will be converted.

The modern buildings are geared to the high demands of industrial, digital production. Aspects that are closely associated with this include the Internet of Things, cyber security, electromobility, new battery technology, virtual reality, robot technology and 3D printing. "uptownBasel" is to become a flagship project for the issue of sustainability, among other things for its integrated use of waste heat from the planned data centres and a modern wood chip facility that uses waste wood to supply the entire site with energy.

### **Corporations Axians and Bouygues have signed**

The project will create space for 2,000 jobs and 50 innovative IT and IoT companies. Hans-Jörg Fankhauser, architect and site developer of "uptownBasel", puts it in a nutshell: "The campus is geared towards technology companies that wish to work in a networked manner. 'uptownBasel' will have a gateway function, the goal being for it to become a hub for industrial cooperation networks."

The first leases have already been signed. Two major European technology companies, Axians and Bouygues, will shape the first "uptownBasel" building, optimally complementing each other in the process. Both of these large-scale enterprises are globally networked and are key drivers of energy transition and digital and industrial transformation. "We look forward to 'uptownBasel' and are convinced that this new competence centre for Industry 4.0 will play a leading role far beyond the region," says Thomas Ernst, Member of the Board of Directors of Vinci Energies Switzerland AG.

### **70 percent of the first building let**

Construction started on the first large building on the "uptownBasel" site, called "The Pioneer", in March 2019. The five-storey building comprises three column-free halls spanned by steel girders. Modern workspaces will be created in 9,000 m<sup>2</sup> of office space above the production halls for approximately 600 technology specialists. The first building, with a total usable area of 25,000 m<sup>2</sup>, will be ready by the end of 2020. 70 percent of the space has already been let.

### **Media Contact**

IEU Kommunikation AG

Hans Jörg Luchsinger, Tel. 061 927 55 00 or 078 665 95 22, [h.j.luchsinger@ieu.ch](mailto:h.j.luchsinger@ieu.ch)

Fabian Cortesi, Tel. 061 927 55 00 or 076 336 17 11, [f.cortesi@ieu.ch](mailto:f.cortesi@ieu.ch)

uptownBasel AG

Hans-Jörg Fankhauser, site developer, Tel. 061 716 88 88 or 079 335 33 34, [hj@f-web.ch](mailto:hjf@f-web.ch)

