

Call for Enterprises, Startups and Projects in the Biotech Field

Assobiotec (the Italian Association for the development of biotechnology, which is part of Federchimica), SPRING (the Italian Cluster of Green Chemistry) and Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center are delighted to invite companies and researchers in the Circular Bioeconomy and Red biotech & Medical Devices fields to participate in **the eleventh edition of BioInItaly Investment Forum 2019 (April 16-17, Milan)**.

1. Initiative Overview

BioInItaly Investment Forum, powered by Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center acceleration program (StartUp Initiative), is a yearly investment forum open to established companies, start-ups and research projects from Italy and other European countries. In a unique end-to-end program, the applicants will benefit from coaching, networking and direct contact with international investors through a series of focused events. The initiative is aimed to provide the applicants with the competences, connections and access to potential investors they need to go to market and scale.

The program will feature two parallel tracks, dedicated respectively to **Circular Bioeconomy** (biotech for environment and agriculture, biotech for industrial applications, biomaterials and bioenergy, marine biotech, nutrient looping, organic fertilizer) and **Red Biotech and Medical Devices** (life sciences, diagnostics, drug discovery, drug delivery, therapy and treatment).

2. Competition Structure

BioInItaly Investment Forum & Intesa Sanpaolo StartUp Initiative is **designed as a three-phase investment arena**:

- **Phase 1 – Scouting and Screening**: participants are invited to submit their ideas and proposals. At the end of Phase 1, the BioInItaly selection committees will pick a maximum of 20 applicants who will proceed to Phase 2.
- **Phase 2 – Training, selection and Investor Arena Meeting**: the selected participants will attend a two-day Boot Camp session in Turin. The session will allow participants to benefit from extensive training to refine their business plans and craft presentations aimed specifically at the investor arena. This unique program will run in cooperation with the startup advisory know-how developed in Intesa Sanpaolo and its experienced Californian investor Bill Barber. At the end of Phase 2 the participants will pitch to a panel of investors, technology experts and industry representatives, who will select up to 8 finalists to present at a **public Investor Arena Meeting, to be held in Milan on April 16-17, 2019**.
- **Phase 3 – International Roadshow**: following the Investment Forum, the most promising finalists with global ambitions will be given the opportunity to pitch at international arenas throughout Europe, organized by the Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center and its network of partners. These unique networking events will provide contestants with the opportunity to pitch to an audience of top investors and receive detailed feedback after each meeting.

3. Eligibility

Applicants wishing to take part in this initiative must meet the following requirements:

- Contestants must present a company or project that fits within the target Circular Bioeconomy and Red biotech & Medical Devices. It is not required for the applicants' project to refer to an incorporated company.
- International applications are welcome – please be aware that at least 50% of the projects admitted to Phase 2 must be Italian or planning to open up a main office in Italy within 2018.
- Contestants must indicate their fund raising objectives and financial needs (the typical equity ask range for our investment forums is between € 200K and € 5M)
- Participants from previous editions will be considered only if they can demonstrate a significant evolution in their business plan or market validation.

4. Key dates and activities

- **By February 15, 2019** (midnight GMT+1): Interested startups can apply by submitting a business plan or executive summary of their project via StartUp Initiative [online application form](#). Please indicate in the field "Short description of your startup/business idea", in addition to your business description, whether you are applying for the Circular Bioeconomy or Red Biotech & Medical Devices track.
- **By March 1**: the committees announce which **applicants are selected** for the training steps.
- **Turin, Wed-Thu, March 13-14: Boot Camp**. Selected participants take part in training sessions to build their investor pitch.
- **Between March 18 and 29: One to One sessions**. Selected participants receive personalized mentoring from our coaches. Each session can take place in person in Milan, or remotely via Skype.
- **Milan, Thursday April 4: Deal Line-Up**. Selected participants pitch to a panel of investors and industry experts, who will choose up to 10 finalists from the two tracks.
- **Milan, Tue-Wed April 16-17: Investor Arena Meeting**. Finalists pitch to a broad audience of investors, corporations and players of the innovation ecosystem. Please note that skipping any of the previous steps prevents participation to the Arena Meeting.
- Subsequent **international roadshows** and investment forums will be made available to selected finalists over the course of 2019 and 2020.

5. Selection Criteria

The proposals submitted by contestants will be judged by the Circular Bioeconomy and Red biotech & Medical Devices selection committees along the following criteria:

- 1) Strength of Product / Technology. What are the strengths of the product and its technical standards? Is there a need for the proposed technology and does it offer an effective solution to a problem in the field? Is the product/technology original and disruptive?
- 2) Business Model. Is the business model clear and sustainable? What is its capacity to monetize and what is the estimated time to market?
- 3) Market Size and Scalability. What are the size and attractiveness of the target market? Can the proposed technology or solution be deployed at a scale?
- 4) Barriers to Entry and Competitive Advantage. Is there a clear and sustainable competitive advantage in the proposed solution and are the barriers to entry strong enough to prevent competitors from penetrating the market?
- 5) Team. What is the composition of the team? Is there a balance in terms of knowledge and expertise? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How strong is their overall commitment to the business?
- 6) Financials. Is the team's business plan robust? What is their strategy for growing and financing the company in the medium term (3-5 years)?

The Selection Panel will be composed by experienced and qualified professionals with biotech research, industry and finance backgrounds.

6. BioItaly Roadshow

Over the course of 2017/2018, Assobiotec, SPRING and Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center will organize a national roadshow to introduce BioItaly to enterprises and researchers and collect applications from the different regions. Each leg will be organized in partnership with **local authorities**. If you are interested in presenting your company/your business plan in the different legs of the national roadshow, please refer to the contacts with each of the local partner, that you will find on the site of Assobiotec. The projects considered to be the most interesting from a local jury will be admitted directly to the boot-camp. For the roadshow calendar and regional contacts, you can visit <http://www.assobiotec.it>

7. Confidentiality

- The staff of the organizing entities as well the members of the Selection Panel will have access to entry materials.
- Entering teams must recognize that any information submitted through entries is at risk of 'public disclosure'.
- The organizers, judges and other affiliates of the event will NOT enter into non-disclosure agreements with applicants.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact us at bioitaly.assobiotec@federchimica.it and startup@intesaspaolo.com

Organizers



INTESA SANPAOLO
INNOVATION CENTER



FEDERCHIMICA
ASSOBIOTEC
Italian Association for the Development
of Biotechnology

Main Partner



ELLEN MACARTHUR
FOUNDATION

Bird & Bird



STIFEL



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