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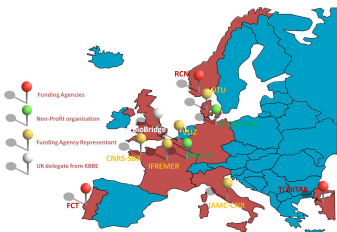
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CSA MarineBiotech prepares the foundation for an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology. The CSA MarineBiotech concentrates its efforts on the mobilisation and engagement of funding agencies and stakeholders through the establishment of a Strategic Forum and a Stakeholder Group, which provide strategic advice to the project consortium and contribute to a high-quality proposal for a future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology.

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CSA MarineBiotech Launched



A sound strategy for marine biotechnology research, technology development and innovation and a concerted coordination of relevant national and regional programmes are urgently needed in Europe. The Coordination and

Support Action 'MarineBiotech' is a response to this, aiming at an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology that can deliver 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', a core objective of the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#). Bringing together 11 partners from 9 countries, MarineBiotech will work with Europe's other initiatives including SEAS-ERA, ERA-IB, ERA Bioenergy and the new Joint Programming Initiative in Healthy Seas and Oceans, as well as other relevant projects and programmes. MarineBiotech is coordinated by the Research Council of Norway and managed by BioBridge Ltd UK. The 1st invitation-only workshop *Mobilisation and Engagement of Funding Agencies and Stakeholders* is taking place in Faro, Portugal 26th-27th April 2012, organised by the Portuguese science funding agency FCT.

Stop Press!

[The Copenhagen Declaration](#), issued in March 2012 at Bioeconomy in Action, a major event under the Danish presidency to discuss the Bioeconomy Strategy for Europe, makes a key recommendation that 'the perceived conflict between food and non-food production from arable land could be overcome by ... selecting feedstock such as algae and other under-exploited resources from aquatic and marine environments, and by using existing and new knowledge and technologies to increase biomass yield.' Maive Rute, Director of Biotechnologies in EC DG Research & Innovation, also gave the green light at this conference to focusing on contributions from the marine and maritime areas, including marine biotechnology, in a future Bioeconomy Strategy event.

European Commissioner Identifies blue biotech as a driver for the bioeconomy in Europe Maire Geoghegan-Quinn says "There is a high potential in emerging bioeconomy markets. In the oceans ... 90% of marine biodiversity, such as algae, is still unused and the marine biotechnology market is growing by 10% per year." [...more](#)

EC Director of Biotechnologies calls for better cross-discipline collaboration in marine biotechnologies Maive Rute, launching the call "The Ocean of Tomorrow", states "We need more knowledge for innovation, for delivering rational policies, and we need more integration between different scientific communities." [...more](#)

EC to establish a Bioeconomy Panel and Bioeconomy Observatory As part of the strategy and action plan "Innovating for sustainable growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe". [...more](#)

Marine Biotechnology A New Vision and Strategy for Europe: The European Science Foundation Marine Board urges governments to step on the funding pedal to accelerate the positive contributions marine biotechnology can make to European society. [...more](#)

Ethical issues for Biofuels The UK's Nuffield Council on Bioethics notes "The potential to improve biofuel yields from algae is significant ... production is still in its infancy and there is a chance to develop production facilities designed with environmental and social sustainability in mind." [...more](#)

News from the Consortium

MB at EFIB Forum 2012: The MarineBiotech consortium is delighted to have been invited to organise a talk session and a half-day workshop at this year's [EFIB](#) 16-18 October, Dusseldorf, Germany. This will be in collaboration with EuropaBio, the Biosciences Knowledge Transfer Network and the Norway-UK Partnership in marine biotechnology.

The RCN Partner 1 is organizing a workshop in the OECD Global Forum May 2012 (see Forthcoming events)

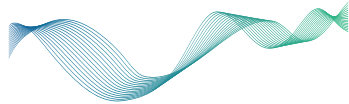
VLIZ Partner 2: workshop with EWI establishes 'Marine Biotechnology Platform Flanders': VLIZ and EWI held a workshop in Ghent in February 2012, to gain a better view on the full scope of marine biotechnology activities in Flanders. Research topics included developments in aquaculture research, marine genomics, textiles for open sea, cultivation of microalgae, interests in marine biopolymers, the use of marine products in nutraceuticals, and many more, illustrating the high interest in marine biotechnology research and its industrial applications. The workshop also highlighted the urgent need to improve cooperation and stimulate interdisciplinarity to boost marine biotechnology research in Flanders, and it was decided to establish a '[Marine Biotechnology Platform Flanders](#)', active soon.

Norgenta Partner 3 is co-organizing the Submariner Blue Biotechnology Cooperation Event in May 2012 (see Forthcoming Events)

CNRS Partner 5: the MarineBiotech project presented to SEAS-ERA audience: CNRS gave a presentation on Marine Biotechnology at the 1st [SEAS-ERA](#) Atlantic Consultative workshop in Ostend, 28-29 February

Marine Board ESF Partner 7: 3rd Marine Board Forum 2012 announced for 18 April Brussels: [The 3rd Marine Board Forum](#) "New Technologies for a Blue Future" will examine emerging and future developments that could have the potential to make a significant contribution either to marine science or to society. The Forum will look at impacts and also at what training, knowledge-transfer and funding support is necessary to fast-track blue technology development.

BioBridge Partner 11 is moderating two Think Tanks at BioMarine 2012 in October (see Forthcoming Events)



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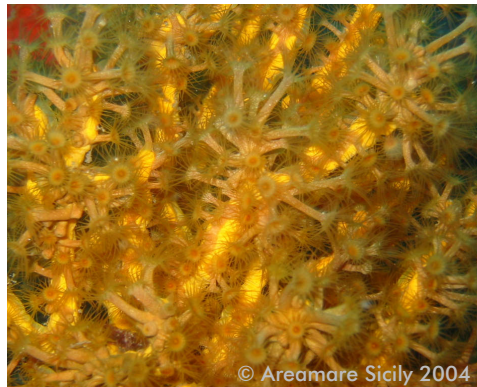
► The global market for Marine Biotechnology products and processes was estimated [in 2010] at EUR 2.8 billion with a growth rate of 4-5%. Less conservative estimates predict annual growth of up to 10-12% in the coming years, revealing the huge potential and high expectations for further development of the Marine Biotechnology sector at a global scale. Source: Marine Board Position Paper No. 15

News

EuroMarine 2nd General assembly took place in January 2012: For presentations, workshop reports, photos, web broadcast please follow the link.

CIESM new online Forum opens dialogue on hot issues in Fisheries and Blue Biotechnology: The CIESM online Forum is designed to clarify issues that remain obscure and frustrate current international negotiations. It provides stakeholders with a clear, accessible platform to exchange ideas and enrich knowledge. The contributions will be analysed and summarized for transmission to the 22 Governments that are Member States of CIESM and also to the European Commission.

OCEANOMICS: The OCEANOMICS project is based on the Tara Oceans Expedition, a public/private collaboration that has collected samples and eco-morpho-genetic data of planktonic communities, including viruses, bacteria, eggs, embryos, and large animals, at more than 200 sites and several depths across the oceans of the world.



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OCEANOMICS proposes a combination of sequencing protocols and high-rate imaging in order to extract information from this unique collection of samples, on several systemic levels: DNA, RNA, and phenotypes. It is funded by the French Ministries of Research and Agriculture.

GreenStars: This is a project supported by INRA in France, with 45 partners, establishing an "Institute of Excellence on low-carbon energy" (IEED) and new products from microalgae using biorefinery processes.

Joint UK-Norwegian support for development of industrial biotechnology sector: the programme has now supported 4 full-scale collaborative R&D projects and 5 feasibility studies, creating innovative processes to generate high-value chemicals through industrial biotechnology and bio-refining. The UK Technology Strategy Board has offered grant funding totaling £1.82 million to the nine UK-led projects and four of these will also be supported by Innovation Norway, which is providing additional funding of £400,000 to the Norwegian businesses that are taking part.

A Global Challenge to Design Visionary Algae Food and Energy Systems: Finalists in the three categories of the 2011 International Algae Competition, Algal Landscape Design, Algal Production Systems and Algae Foods and Recipes, have been announced.

Solazyme Roquette Nutritionals and Roquette sign European exclusive agreement for the sales of breakthrough microalgae-derived food ingredients starting with **Whole Algalin Flour**: Solazyme, which was established to produce algal-origin jetfuel for the US military, has diversified as part of a biorefinery strategy, forming a joint-venture with Roquette, the French-based international plant-starch and food ingredients company, in November 2010.

Forthcoming events

EU FP7 SEAS-ERA Atlantic Partnership and the Atlantic Arc Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (AAC - CPMR) "Governance" Consultative Workshop 23-24 April 2012, Lisbon, Portugal: This takes place just before the CSA MarineBiotech workshop; it is by invitation only. It will collect comments and feedback on the indicative research priorities and enabling actions proposed in the **SEAS-ERA Discussion Document "A Draft Marine Research Plan for the European Atlantic Sea Basin"** (see p28 of document) in order to prepare a Strategic Research Agenda for the European Atlantic Sea Basin alongside those in preparation for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea Basins.

BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology & Bioprocessing, Orlando Florida, USA, 29 April–2 May 2012: Follow the link for more information.

Blue Biotechnology Cooperation Event "New Strategies and Future Perspectives" 9–10 May 2012, Kiel, Germany: The Centre for Marine Natural Products (KiWiZ) at GEOMAR and Norgenta North German Life Science Agency GmbH host this SUBMARINER project event, Registration is now open. It focuses on the great biodiversity of Baltic marine macroalgae, invertebrates, and microorganisms and their potential for scientific research and biotechnological application, involving scientists, private companies and public institutions, increasing awareness of Blue Biotechnology and strengthening the Baltic Sea Region's competitiveness in this field.

OECD Global Forum on Biotechnology: Marine Biotechnology Enabling Solutions for Ocean Productivity and Sustainability (Vancouver, Canada, 30-31 May 2012): This reviews the opportunities that marine biotechnology brings to the grand challenges of food and fuel security, population health, green growth and sustainable industries. Participants (by invitation) are policy makers and regulators, industry leaders, academics, social and natural scientists, from the 34 OECD countries and non-member and developing countries.

Rendez-vous de Concarneau, 28-29 August 2012, Concarneau, Brittany, France: The "Rendez-Vous de Concarneau", now open for registration, promote relationships and strengthen bridges between Industry and academic research, enabling technology and knowledge transfer among stakeholders within European marine biotechnologies. Further information from Florence Levu.

Symposium on Marine Invertebrate Cell Culture (MICC 2012) 30-31 August 2012, Concarneau, Brittany, France: Following on from Les Rendez-Vous, this is now open for registration. Organised by UMR BOREA as part of the Sino-European programme IRSES "MarBiotech", MICC 2012 focuses on advances in improvement and development of marine invertebrate cell cultures and access to in vitro technology.

1st Annual International Congress of Marine Algae 2012 (AICMA-2012), 20-23 September, Dalian, China: Follow the link for more information.

BioMarine International Business Convention 2012, 24-25 October, London: Follow the link for more information.

ScanBalt Forum 2012, 20-23 November, Tampere, Finland: Follow the link for more information.

BioProsp 2013, February 20-22 2013, Tromsø, Norway: Follow the link for more information.