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Swiss Biotech Report 2020 highlights continued sector growth

- **Over CHF 1 billion raised for private and public companies**
- **Gene therapy, AI and advanced biologics manufacturing emerging as additional strengths**
- **Licensing deals and collaborations boost revenues**
- **Swiss biotech ecosystem becomes even more diverse**

With one of the most comprehensive life sciences ecosystems in the world, Swiss biotech continues to thrive. The 2020 edition of the Swiss Biotech Report launched today by the Swiss Biotech Association in conjunction with EY and seven other partners, provides highlights and analysis of funding, M&A and collaborations, as well as a special focus on the exciting new artificial intelligence scene.

Overall positive in tone, the report notes that fundamentals remained strong: research infrastructure delivered innovation, over 40 start-ups were founded, funding continued to flow, big pharma invested heavily in production capacity for cell therapies and biologics, and the talent pool was maintained.

Key findings of the 2020 Swiss Biotech Report

Swiss biotechs raised a total of CHF 1.2 billion with an almost even split between public and private companies. CRISPR Therapeutics AG led public companies closing an equity round and ATM program totaling CHF 436 million. Other public companies able to access fresh money were AC Immune, ObsEva, Auris Medical and Biocartis. Among private companies the largest financing rounds were achieved by ADC Therapeutics, getting CHF 101 million, and Sophia Genetics with CHF 76 million.

The Swiss biotech industry generated overall revenues of CHF 4.8 billion in 2019, compared to CHF 4.0 billion in 2018. This boost in revenues was mainly driven by favorable collaboration and licensing agreements for AC Immune, Basilea and CRISPR, as well as higher revenues for those biotechs already selling products/services in the market.

In the ecosystem an already attractive funding environment was boosted by new specialized Swiss based funds such as Medicxi, ND Capital, Pureos Bioventures, and Bernina BioInvest together with an ever-increasing number of foreign funds. M&A activity, an indicator of sector maturity and attractiveness, thrived, as demonstrated by the Amal, NovImmune and Therachon deals.

New strengths are emerging as multi-national biopharma companies such as Biogen, CSL Behring, Novartis and Merck invest heavily in expanding production capacity for the increasing number of complex biologicals and cell therapies gaining approval. In addition, the possibilities of artificial intelligence are being exploited by companies such as SOPHiA Genetics, BC Platforms, Genedata, Insphero, GenomSys and SimplicityBIO.

„The Swiss Biotech Report 2020 shows that Switzerland has a comprehensive life sciences ecosystem - from research to manufacturing - that Swiss biotech companies can rely on and thus continue to thrive. Economically, life sciences are a major pillar of the Swiss economy, accounting for 40 percent of exports with a truly global reach. The report also shows that the sector is not standing still with growth in new areas and a rise in international collaborations and investments,“ commented Michael Altorfer, CEO of the Swiss Biotech Association.

„In line with the global biotechnology industry, Swiss biotech in 2019 again performed well, irrespective of the macroeconomic and external environment and showed resilience in the face of elevated geopolitical, trade and tariff concerns. Financing held up, revenues increased and M&A activity continued. The only diversion was the absence of IPOs, as companies chose to explore other paths of finance,“ says Jürg Zürcher, Partner and Biotechnology Leader Germany, Switzerland, Austria, at EY in Switzerland.

Laureates nominated for the Swiss Biotech Success Story Awards

Each year, the Swiss Biotech Association awards companies or individuals in recognition of outstanding achievements. The award winners for 2020 are Actelion, Debiopharm, Helsinn, Venture Kick, >>Venture>>, Venturelab, and the noble prize-winner Professor Werner Arber. Nominated this year for the **Swiss Biotech Success Stories Awards** in 2021 are Bachem, Basilea, Esbatech, Lonza, and Novimmune.

About the Swiss Biotech Report 2020

The Swiss Biotech Report 2020 sheds light on the most important trends, factors of innovation, and sources of innovation, and summarizes topics and facts on the development of the Swiss biotech industry. This year's theme is biotechnology, big data and artificial intelligence. The report is available digitally at [swissbiotech.org/report](https://www.swissbiotech.org/report).

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About Swiss Biotech and the Swiss Biotech Association

Founded in 1998, the Swiss Biotech Association represents the interests of the Swiss biotech industry. To support its members in a competitive market, the association works to secure favorable framework conditions and facilitate access to talents, novel technologies and financial resources. To strengthen and promote the Swiss biotech industry, the Swiss Biotech Association collaborates with numerous partners and life science clusters globally under the brand Swiss Biotech™. For further information see [swissbiotech.org](https://www.swissbiotech.org).