

PRESS RELEASE

Tenth edition of BIOSPAIN, postponed to September 2021

Given the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the recommendations of healthcare authorities in mind and foreseeing the situations that may arise over the remainder of 2020, AseBio, in coordination with the Government of Navarra and Sodena, has decided to postpone the event to 2021.

Madrid, 12 May 2020. The Spanish Bioindustry Association (AseBio), in coordination with the Government of Navarra and its financial instrument for developing business in the region (Sodena), has decided to **postpone the tenth edition of BIOSPAIN**, the benchmark fair in the biotechnology sector, which was scheduled to be held in Pamplona in September 2020. The new dates will be in **September 2021**.

This will allow this event, which is one of the major biotechnology events in Europe, to be held with the utmost guarantees, as well as ensuring a safe environment for participants, speakers, sponsors and organising staff.

BIOSPAIN will be held from **29 September to 1 October 2021** at the BALUARTE Congress Centre and Auditorium of Navarra in Pamplona-Iruña. The capital of Navarra will welcome more than **1,500 professionals from the national and international biotechnology sector**, who will hold over **3,000 one-to-one meetings** to identify many collaboration and investment opportunities, as has been seen in previous years. Plus, the programme will be updated to highlight the role of biotechnology in the current Covid-19 pandemic and future healthcare crises, analysing issues like antibiotics resistance.

Ana Polanco, president of AseBio, believes that “postponing the tenth edition of BIOSPAIN is the best thing we could do to ensure the safety of the participants, speakers and organising staff. The new dates will allow us to organise BIOSPAIN with the utmost guarantees, while also reinforcing the programme to highlight the solutions biotechnology is contributing to protect us against emerging diseases, as well as the role biotechnology and innovation should play in the post-Covid-19 world”.

In the words of **Manu Ayerdi**, minister of Economic Development and Business of Navarra, “*this decision will surely allow us to ensure the huge impact this event has on the local health sector, one year later. According to the latest available data, the region of Navarra contributes to the Spanish ecosystem 68 health companies with a joint turnover of €659 million. I am convinced that BIOSPAIN will give our companies greater international protection*”.

For her part, Sodena Managing Director **Pilar Irigoien** conveys that “*it was a hard decision to make but it was based on the conviction that we must prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the event and that this resolution will make the next edition a success, to continue strengthening the biotechnology business sector in the region*”.

AseBio CEO **Ion Arocena** highlights that “*in its nine previous editions, BIOSPAIN has positioned itself as the benchmark event for the biotechnology sector in Spain. Here at AseBio, we are working to make sure this tenth edition highlights the capacities of the biotechnology sector both to tackle unmet medical needs, sustainable agriculture and healthy food, and to contribute to sustainable, inclusive economic growth. We will take advantage of this extra time we’ve gained by postponing BIOSPAIN to make the event even better and encourage participation, with a schedule of activities that we will announce over the coming weeks*”.

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About AseBio

AseBio, the Spanish Bioindustry Association, brings together and represents the interests of companies, associations, foundations, universities and technology and research centres that work in the field of biotechnology in Spain.

We collaborate closely with regional, national and European governments, as well as with social organisations that are committed to science and the use of biotechnology to improve people's lives, environmental sustainability, economic development and high value-added employment.

AseBio is a community committed to science and innovation as a driving force for sustainable economic development and social wellbeing. We've created an inclusive ecosystem, open to all, with the aim of finding innovative solutions to the social and generational challenges we are facing.

About Sodena

Sodena, Sociedad de Desarrollo de Navarra, S.L., is the Government of Navarra's financial instrument to attract and develop value-added business projects for the region, as well as coordinating the design and implementation of the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy that promotes collaboration, growth and competitiveness, contributing to regional development and the creation of quality employment.

Financial support for business projects, both local and attracted from abroad, is done mainly through venture capital and participation loans. These projects must have ties to Navarra, actively and significantly contributing to the region's balanced, sustained development. Technical support is provided through coordination, guidance and liaison services for investors and companies, facilitating any support needed to choose Navarra for their projects.

Sodena is currently participating in 173 business projects, directly in 96 of them and indirectly in the other 77, through 12 venture capital funds that specialise in the sector.