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## Media Release

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### **BIOKET 2026: Fribourg Shines on the International Bioeconomy Stage**

*For the first time in Switzerland, Fribourg hosted the international BIOKET congress, dedicated to key enabling technologies in the bioeconomy. Over three days, 485 experts from around 30 countries gathered to explore solutions for more sustainable production models. This edition reinforces the canton's position as a credible and well-connected player on the global stage.*

The seventh edition of BIOKET took place from March 17 to 19, 2026, at Forum Fribourg and closed on a highly positive note. Over three days, 485 participants from around 30 countries turned Fribourg into an international hub for key enabling technologies in the bioeconomy.

Organised by the Bioeconomy For Change (B4C) cluster, in partnership with the Fribourg Development Agency (FDA), BIOKET featured a dynamic programme of conferences, technical sessions, B2B meetings, workshops and site visits. Around fifty exhibitors and partners also showcased their solutions, providing hands-on insight into ongoing initiatives.

*“This edition in Fribourg truly captures the spirit of BIOKET: building bridges between research, industry and regions. We found here a particularly supportive environment, well suited to accelerating collaborative projects,”* said Johan De Coninck, Head of Connexions & International at B4C.

### **A Key Driver in Transforming Production Models**

At the heart of the discussions was the bioeconomy – encompassing all activities that use biological resources to produce food, materials, molecules, biopolymers and energy. Sitting at the intersection of industry, research and innovation, it plays a central role in the transition towards a more circular economy.

Recent developments in the Middle East have once again highlighted how dependent our economies remain on fossil resources. In this context, the bioeconomy offers tangible alternatives to reduce this dependence and strengthen the resilience of value chains.

### **Showcasing Fribourg's Ecosystem**

Beyond the conference programme, BIOKET 2026 offered participants a first-hand look at Fribourg's ecosystem through visits to key sites: the Liebherr Group and its technologies, particularly in hydrogen engines; the AgriCo campus, dedicated to agri-food innovation and biomass valorisation; and the innovation ecosystem bringing together bluefactory, the ChemTech institute of the School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg, and the Marly Innovation Center. These visits highlighted the canton's ability to cover the entire value chain, from applied research to industrialisation.

*“BIOKET 2026 shows that Fribourg is a place where ideas become concrete solutions. The bioeconomy is no longer just a promise or a potential – it is a fast-growing industrial reality in our canton, as illustrated by start-ups such as Bloom Biorenewables and Seprify. The latter has recently raised more than 12 million Swiss francs,”* said Jerry Krattiger, Director of the FDA.

## **A Clear, Long-Term Strategy**

Hosting BIOKET 2026 is part of the canton’s economic development strategy, which identifies the bioeconomy – alongside Industry 4.0 – as a key priority. Following the Bioeconomy Forum in 2024, this international edition marks a new step forward and confirms Fribourg’s strong positioning within European and global bioeconomy networks.

### **BIOKET, A Hub for the Bioeconomy**

Launched in 2018 by the Bioeconomy For Change (B4C) cluster, BIOKET (BIOeconomy Key Enabling Technologies) has become a key meeting point for bioeconomy stakeholders. The event highlights technologies and biotechnologies that enable biomass valorisation and pave the way for new high value-added applications.

After several editions held across Europe and North America – including Lille, Reims, Brussels and Trois-Rivières (Canada) – BIOKET is being hosted in Switzerland for the first time in 2026, in Fribourg. Each edition brings together an international ecosystem of experts from research, industry and innovation, fostering collaboration and new partnerships.

**[www.bioket.tech](http://www.bioket.tech)**

#### **Information**

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