



NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2010



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EDITORIAL

Well, that's something we don't often see! "German medical technology on the verge of a major boom," trumpeted a study published by HWWI Hamburg Institute of International Economics on behalf of HSH Nordbank in late January. With the markets in America and Europe already successfully tapped, the report's upbeat conclusion is also based on the new sales markets opening up for German medical technology in Asia and Eastern Europe, which hold out the promise of above-average growth over the next decade. What's more, these healthy prospects are boosted by demographic aging in the industrialised nations along with rising incomes and the growing population in the large threshold countries. biosaxony has already responded – for example by teaming up with the Saxony Economic Development Corporation to promote Saxony at the BIO Asia Partnering Conference in India in early February.

Fundamental innovation in biotech, nanotechnology and genetic engineering has also proved to be a major growth driver. The potential growth resulting is enormous, with HWWI anticipating merely the markets it examined to rise by nearly 60% to €14 billion by 2020.

This all ought to provide a tremendous environment for EuroMedTech 2010, the partnering conference for the European medical technology industry, which will take place in Leipzig on 1–2 June 2010. "EuroMedtech is an indispensable event for medical technology companies seeking a strong boost for their business," says Earlybird venture partner Thom Rasche. "EuroMedtech provides fertile soil for firms interested in a strategic partnership with a major medical equipment manufacturer or in receiving fresh capital." Either way, don't forget that biosaxony is offering cut-price fees to those planning to attend the EuroMedtech conference.

With so much optimism in the air, we think 2010 has already got off to a great start!

Best wishes,

The biosaxony team

INDUSTRY

SAXONY'S BIOTECH INDUSTRY UNITES: PRIVATE SECTOR AND SCIENCE JOIN FORCES TO SET UP BIOSAXONY ALLIANCE

In order to safeguard the continuous development of biotechnology in Saxony, the skills of the region's biotech players have been brought together within the new biosaxony alliance – a registered association acting on behalf of its members throughout Saxony. Now that a critical mass of established biotech companies has been achieved in the region, the biosaxony alliance sees itself as a business initiative with a strong scientific focus. The aims are to use the resulting synergy to support the alliance's work in thematic focus groups and to show a united front.

The project has been given the full backing of Sabine von Schorlemer, Saxony's minister of science and the arts. "Under the biosaxony label, Saxony has already made a name for itself in Germany and abroad as a centre of biotechnology and become one of the most dynamic biotech regions anywhere in Europe," explains Prof von Schorlemer. "I am certain that the work of the newly founded biosaxony alliance will continue to enhance biotech in Saxony."

This goal is reflected by the biosaxony alliance's executive committee: Roland Göhde, CEO Partec GmbH (chairman), Dr Wilhelm Zörgiebel, CEO Biotype AG (deputy chairman), Dr André Gerth, CEO BioPlanta GmbH (treasurer), Prof Frank Emmrich, director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology in Leipzig, and Prof Kai Lenart Simons, director of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden.

[More details](#)

OPTIMISM GROWS IN THE BIOTECH INDUSTRY

According to a recent survey by industrial association BIO Germany in conjunction with life sciences magazine *transkript*, Germany's biotech companies are now looking to the future with optimism again. Nearly half of Germany's biotech employers (47%) believe their business outlook will improve – compared to just a third (33%) last year. At the same time, the proportion of pessimists who expect their commercial success to decline has dropped from 18% last year to just 7%. Meanwhile, businesses' assessment of their current position has remained stable over the past twelve months.

[More details](#)

COMPETITION AWARDS €60,000 FOR BEST NEW BUSINESS IDEAS IN MEDICINE

On 14 December, the awards ceremony for the 2009 Medical Sector Business Plan Competition was held at the Colosseum Theatre in Essen. Within a few months, the 147 entrants divided into 66 teams had translated their ground-breaking commercial ideas into business plans. The winners included a team from Saxony, the Dresden-based nanometis, which came third, albeit without being in the running for a cash prize.

Winners:

1. Particular, Hanover (€30,000)
2. Atemluftdiagnostik (breath diagnostics), Dortmund (€15,000)
3. Nanometis, Dresden (outside the competition)
4. Eyesight & Vision, Nuremberg (€5,000)

[More details](#)

SITUATIONS VACANT

DRESDEN

Genix BioScience GmbH is seeking a technical assistant for its HT-RNAi cell screening unit.

[More details](#)

APOGEPHA Arzneimittel GmbH is seeking a business and product development assistant.

[More details](#)

Labor Diagnostik GmbH Leipzig is seeking a biology laboratory technician (VMTA/BTA/MTA) for manufacturing and quality control at its Dresden.

[More details](#)

LEIPZIG

EuroGene GmbH is seeking to appoint the following:

- A lecturer for adaptation training in biotechnology, molecular genetics, cytogenetics and medicine (prevention, regeneration)
- A self-employed or freelance recruitment specialist
- An employee in the field of cytogenetics

[More details](#)

The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research UFZ is seeking to appoint the following:

- A microbiologist/molecular biologist to head the Microbial In Situ Activity Group
- A senior scientist
- A coordinator of hydrological field observatories
- Scientists
- Research assistants
- An engineer/technician for anaerobic bioprocesses

[More details](#)

euroderm GmbH is seeking to appoint the following:

- MTA/PTA/BTA, preferably with cell culture experience
- Research assistants for R&D in cell culture

[More details](#)

RADEBERG

ABX is seeking the following:

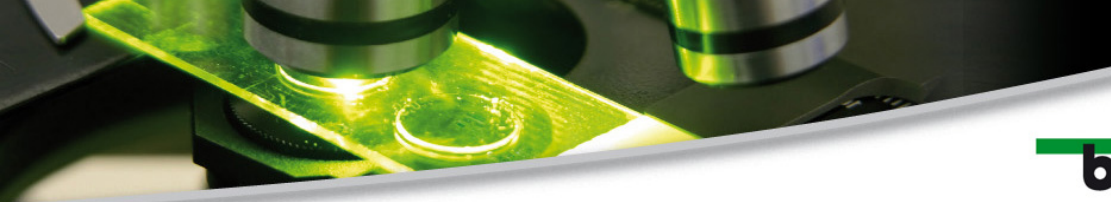
- A quality control analyst
- An R&D chemist

[More details](#)

RADEBEUL

AWD.pharma GmbH & Co. KG is seeking the following:

- An Oracle eBusiness functional business analyst specialising in logistics



- A sales representative

The following traineeships starting this year are also available:

- Industrial business management
- IT management

[More details](#)

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

TRM LEIPZIG AIMS TO COMBAT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS BY REGENERATING NERVE CELLS

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a particularly insidious disease. Sufferers, who are frequently young adults, are usually beset by neurological symptoms such as impaired vision and deteriorating motor skills occurring in phases. They are caused by an inflammation which damages the protective myelin sheaths around the axons of the brain and the spinal cord.

The medicines mainly used at present curb the inflammation and help slow down the disease. However, there are no effective drugs yet which can regenerate damaged myelin sheaths. To rectify this, TRM Leipzig is now supporting a study into a new type of MS therapy.

[More details](#)

BIOPHYSICIST PROF PETRA SCHWILLE FROM DRESDEN GARNERS TOP GERMAN RESEARCH AWARD

The joint committee of the DFG German Research Foundation has announced the ten winners of the 2010 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Programme. One of them is Prof Petra Schwille from BIOTEC – Dresden University of Technology’s biotechnology centre. The award is regarded as the Nobel Prize of German science and is accompanied by a cheque for €2.5 million, which can be flexibly used as the winner sees fit over a period of seven years.

[More details](#)

GRANT FOR MODERN BONE REGENERATION STRATEGIES

A recent call for tenders entitled ‘Modern Applications of Biotechnology’ held by the DAAD German Academic Exchange Service was won by a Sino-German junior research group from the Orthopaedic Department at Carl Gustav Carus University Hospital in Dresden. Headed by Maik Stiehler PhD, the German-led group fended off 35 competitors. The main aim of the research project is to improve the treatment of critical bone defects, for instance following the removal of bone tumours or after complicated accident-related fractures. In addition, the group hopes to improve the treatment of defects around implants and joint replacements. Over the next five years, the €1.4 million grant from the German Ministry of Education and Research will enable Dr Stiehler’s team and the group headed by Prof Xuenong Zou from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou to push ahead with their highly practical research into modern bone regeneration techniques.

[More details](#)

NANOSYSTEMS INTEGRATION NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE SET UP IN CHEMNITZ

“Modern, successful science would no longer be conceivable without cooperation, including with other regions. Accordingly, the new Nanosystems Integration network of excellence will focus on encouraging the efficient networking of universities, research centres and the private sector,” declared Sabine von Schorlemer, Saxony’s minister of science and the arts, at the network’s official launch in Chemnitz. She emphasised that the new network of excellence was a prime example of a new top-level alliance that had done outstandingly well in the German competition ‘Cutting-Edge Research in Eastern Germany’.

Over the next five years, Chemnitz will be granted €14 million to fund the network's R&D work. The Nanosystems Integration network of excellence is intended to reinforce and expand the research potential in the field of micro- and nanotechnologies as well as system integration at Chemnitz's Smart Systems Campus.

[More details](#)

NEW MODEL EXPLAINS TUMOUR DEVELOPMENT IN ADRENAL CORTEX

An animal model has been worked out by researchers from Medical Clinic III at Dresden University of Technology which for the first time enables the development of cancer in the adrenal cortex to be imitated. Kindly funded by the Wilhelm Sander Foundation, the aim of the project is to come up with a new type of therapy which raises patients' chances of recovery.

Humans generally have two adrenal glands, which produce hormones like adrenaline. They are located on top of the kidneys to the right and left, are about 4cm long, and weigh up to 15g. Adrenal glands consist of cortex and marrow. If benign tumours such as lumps or adenomas form in the cortex, they are frequently only discovered by chance since they don't cause any problems.

[More details](#)

MINISTRY BOLSTERS BEACONS OF RESEARCH IN EASTERN GERMANY

Thanks to generous funding from the German Ministry of Education and Research, six ZIK Centres for Innovation Competence in eastern Germany are well on the way to the forefront of international research. The goal is now to ensure these centres become firmly established – and so the ministry has promised an additional €70 million in funding between now and 2016.

“The Centres for Innovation Competence are a successful model,” stated Germany's research minister Annette Schavan. “Thanks to their modern structures and focus on top-class research, they attract first-rate scientists from Germany and abroad and have already had a major impact far beyond the region.” And Prof Schavan added: “Interdisciplinarity, collaboration with the private sector, and knowledge and technology transfer in connection with pure research are all part and parcel of working at the ZIKs – which is what makes them such an excellent example for other initiatives.”

[More details](#)

LEIPZIG MEDICAL STUDENTS ECLIPSE THE REST OF GERMANY IN 'EXAM OF DEATH'

Following its outstanding research successes, the University of Leipzig's Faculty of Medicine recently notched up a new superlative in the German exams league table when an astonishing 98.2% of its students passed the written section of their part two medical examination (popularly known as the 'exam of death') – more than at anywhere else in Germany.

[More details](#)

€8 MILLION FOR ICCAS

The Innovation Center Computer Assisted Surgery in Leipzig is to receive funding for another five years as of 2010 from the Ministry of Education and Research under its Entrepreneurial Regions initiative. This will enable ICCAS to continue its successful, globally unique research into the future use of computer science in surgery.

[More details](#)

LEIPZIG TO HOST EUROMEDTECH™ 2010

The second annual partnering conference EuroMedtech™ will be held on June 1–2, 2010, at the Westin Hotel in Leipzig. EuroMedtech is Europe's leading medical technology partnering conference and gives decision-makers and investors from the industry unique opportunities for cooperation. It attracts firms from all sectors of modern medical technology including diagnosis, imaging, orthopaedics, the circulatory system, biomaterials and e-health. biosaxony will be the conference's regional host.

[More details](#)

TRM LEIPZIG HOSTS 'TRANSPLANTATION AND STEM CELLS' SYMPOSIUM

In December, the Translational Centre for Regenerative Medicine in Leipzig and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at Martin Luther University in Halle–Wittenberg held a symposium entitled 'Transplantation and Stem Cells'. Numerous experts from all over Germany debated the ethical and legal minefield of medical transplants and applied research in regenerative medicine, especially stem cell research.

[More details](#)

LEIPZIG RADIOACTIVITY EXPERTS JOIN ROSSENDORF RESEARCH CENTRE

On January 1, 2010, the IIF Institute of Interdisciplinary Isotope Research was merged with the FZD Dresden-Rossendorf Research Centre following a recommendation tabled in July 2008 by the Council of Science and Humanities, the committee of experts on science, research and higher education advising federal and regional government. As a result, the more than 750 people working in Dresden and at FZD's external branch at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble (France) have now been joined by IIF's 30 or so members of staff. After signing new contracts of employment in mid-December, Leipzig's radiation experts are currently being smoothly integrated into FZD with the support of its administrative and service departments.

[More details](#)

FUNDING

GERMAN-INDIAN BIOTECH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The German Ministry of Education and Research is launching a biotech initiative to support scientific and technological cooperation with India. The programme's aim is to encourage collaborative projects, for instance under the auspices of national development programmes. It will simplify bilateral biotechnology cooperation between scientists in India and Germany by means of joint research projects, bilateral workshops and seminars, and opportunities for scientists as well as whole delegations of researchers and combined science and business delegations to spend extended periods in either country. The main areas specified in the call for proposals are neurobiology and neuroscience, structural biology, bioprocess engineering, microbiological biotech, cell culture technologies and infectious disease. German research centres, universities, and small and medium-sized businesses are eligible to submit applications, which must be received by **15 February 2010**.

[More details](#)

"TOGETHER TO THE TOP!"

The Industrial Initiative for Central Germany has launched the sixth IQ Innovation Awards for Central Germany – and entries **must be submitted by 7 March**. This unique competition throughout Germany comes with prize money totalling some €65,000 and is geared to the regional clusters in central Germany: automotive, biotech/life sciences, chemical industry and plastics, the food industry, energy/the environment, and information technology. Please note that entries can only be submitted by logging on to www.iq-mittelGermany.de – and don't forget that all important deadline!

[More details](#)

PROMOTING COOPERATION IN BIOTECH AND HEALTHCARE WITHIN THE NEW INDIGO EURO-INDIAN NETWORK (ERA-NET)

The aim of this programme is to support Euro-Indian research projects by exchanging scientists as well as through workshops on biotechnological research in the field of healthcare – and hence initiating multinational scientific collaboration in these realms and strengthening existing cooperation. Applications are invited in the areas of biomarkers and diagnostics, bioinformatics, and structural biology. German research centres as well as state and private universities are eligible to apply. Outline applications should be submitted electronically in English by **noon CET on 8 March 2010**.

[More details](#)

THE FUNDING OF TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN 'ERA-IB: INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR EUROPE' IN THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME 'BIOTECHNOLOGY – USING AND SHAPING ITS OPPORTUNITIES'

Grants are to be made available for practical, pioneering R&D projects with industrial relevance. Project outlines should integrate some of the topics of industrial biotech listed below:

- New enzymes and microorganisms for new, more efficient bioprocesses
- Metabolic engineering to improve industrial microorganisms, including synthetic biology techniques
- Enzyme design combining rational and/or evolutionary methods
- The development of multi-enzyme processes and modular enzymes
- Microbial stress under process conditions
- The development of new platform chemicals, including new bio-monomers
- The development of new, functional biopolymers
- Process analysis technologies for a better understanding and scale-up of bioprocesses
- Innovative downstream processes and biocatalyst recycling
- Biotechnological recycling of bio-refinery products

Private sector companies, universities and non-university research centres based in Germany are eligible to apply. In the first stage, project outlines are to be submitted to the office (era-ib@nwo.nl) in electronic form **by 31 March 2010**.

[More details](#)

GERMAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: GUIDELINES FOR BERNSTEIN AWARD WITHIN THE NATIONAL COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE NETWORK

Computational neuroscience is a very dynamic area of research within the neurosciences. The German Ministry of Education and Research has set up four Bernstein Centres of Computational Neuroscience as part of its National Network for Computational Neuroscience. This has created the fundamental structure needed to network research into computational neuroscience and hence to not just raise it to a new level in Germany but also improve its international profile. Funding is to be provided for research projects designed by young postdocs from Germany or abroad and conducted at a German research centre, with recipients being expected to produce extraordinary scientific achievements in computational neuroscience. Proposals are invited from universities and non-university research institutions based in Germany – but note that research establishments whose core funding is shared by national and regional government can only be awarded project funding to cover their additional costs under certain conditions. Project outlines (preferably in English) must be submitted by post **by May 25, 2010**.

EVENTS, TRADE SHOWS, CONFERENCES AND CONGRESSES

SAXONY (FEBRUARY 2010)

February 2–4, Leipzig: 19th Annual Conference of the German Biogas Association with Biogas Trade Fair – [More details](#)

GERMANY AND WORLDWIDE (FEBRUARY 2010)

February 3-4, Brussels, Belgium: Lighthouses of Sustainability: European Concepts for Competitive Bio-based Chemicals – [More details](#)

February 4-6, Innsbruck, Austria: 1st International Pediatric Biomarker Symposium – [More details](#)

February 4–6, Geneva, Switzerland: 9th International Conference on New Trends in Immunosuppression and Immunotherapy – [More details](#)

February 8–9, New York, USA: BIO CEO & Investor Conference – [More details](#)

February 08-12, Prague, Czech Republic: Immunogenicity for Biology – [More details](#)

February 19, Berlin, Germany: 3rd Berlin Conference on IP in Life Sciences – Life Cycle Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry – [More details](#)

February 23-24, Berlin, Germany: PDA European Conference on Pharmaceutical Microbiology – [More details](#)

February 23–26, Vienna, Austria: International Conference on Molecular Aspects of Plant Development – [More details](#)

February 24–25, Frankfurt am Main, Germany: Antibody Engineering and Design – Acceleration Progress in Antibody Drug Development – [More details](#)

February 24-25, Vienna, Austria: Science to Market – [More details](#)

February 25–28, Munich, Germany: EDDP – International Conference on Early Disease Detection and Prevention – [More details](#)

PREVIEW (MARCH–JUNE 2010)

March 1-2, Valletta, Malta: EuroPLX42– Collaborative Agreements in Generics (incl. Bio-generics and Biosimilars), OTC Drugs, and Nutraceuticals, Development, Licensing, Marketing and Distribution – [More details](#)

March 1-3, Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany: 4th International Conference on “Mechanisms of Growth, Competition and Stress Defense in Plants” – [More details](#)

March 2–4, Hamburg, Germany: 21st Annual Conference of the German Society of Human Genetics together with the Austrian Society of Human Genetics and the Swiss Society of Medical Genetics – [More details](#)

March 3-5, Heidelberg, Germany: EMBL Workshop on Visualizing Biological Data (VizBi) – [More details](#)

March 4, Berlin, Germany: In-between award Science4Life Venture Cup – [More details](#)

March 8–10, Valetta, Malta: 7th World Meeting on Pharmaceuticals, Biopharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology – [More details](#)

March 8, Barcelona, Spain: BIO-Europe Spring – International Partnering Conference – [More details](#)

March 9-10, Düsseldorf, Germany: Pharma Congress Production & Technology – [More details](#)

March 10, Regensburg, Germany: Joint Meeting of the German Society for Cell Biology and the ‘Frontiers in Melanoma Research’ Meeting of the German Melanoma Research Network & 33rd Annual Meeting of the German Society of Cell Biology (DGZ) – [More details](#)

March 15-16, Berlin, Germany: CFO-Gipfel der Biotechnologie-Branche – [More details](#)

March 17–18, Aachen, Germany: Biomedica – [More details](#)

March 18–20, Heidelberg, Germany: EMBL Conference on the Complex Life of mRNA: From Synthesis to Decay – [More details](#)

March 21 – April 1, Saarbrücken, Germany: 8th International Conference and Workshop on Biological Barriers – in vitro Tools, Nanotoxicology, and Nanomedicine – [More details](#)

March 21–26, Dresden, Germany: NeNA (Nano-Entrepreneurship-Academy) – [More details](#)

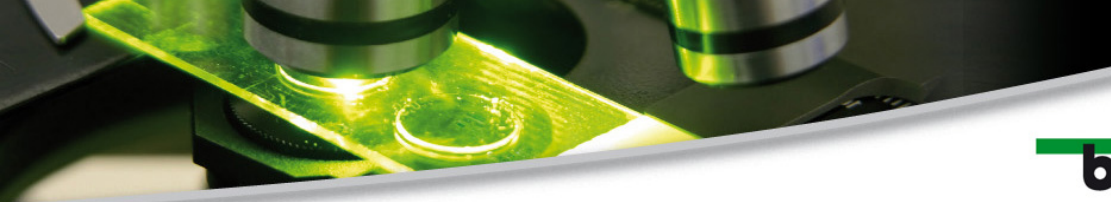
March 23–26, Munich, Germany: Analytica – [More details](#)

March 28–31, Hanover, Germany: 62th Annual Meeting of DGHM/Annual Meeting of VAAM – [More details](#)

March 30–31, Cambridge, UK: The Synthetic Biology in Pharma Conference – [More details](#)

April 1, Oxford, UK: BioTrinity – [More details](#)

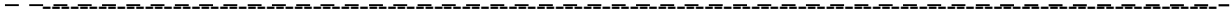
- April 8-10, Dresden, Germany: 6. Weltkongress für Diabetes Prävention – [More details](#)
- April 13, Zurich, Switzerland: Swiss Equity Biotech Day – [More details](#)
- April 14–17, Dresden, Germany: 4th ESF Conference on Functional Genomics and Disease – [Mehr Information](#)
- April 14–18, Vienna, Austria: International Liver Congress : 45th Annual Meeting of the European Association (EASL) for the Study of the Liver – [More details](#)
- April 15 – London, UK: Anglonordic Biotech Conference – [More details](#)
- April 20, Munich, Germany: BioVaria – [More details](#)
- April 21-22, Berlin, Germany: Biotechnologie-Tage – [More details](#)
- April 21–24, Leipzig, Germany: 48th Annual Conference on Nuclear medicine – [More details](#)
- April 22-23, Ljubljana, Slovenia: 13th Annual Conference of the European BioSafety Association – [More details](#)
- April 27, Nuremberg, Germany: TechnoPharm – [More details](#)
- May 3–6, Chicago, USA: BIO International Convention – [More details](#)
- May 8-12, Washington, USA: CYTO – [More details](#)
- May 10–15, Leipzig, Germany: ISPO World Congress– International Trade Show for Prosthetics, Orthotics, Orthopaedic Footwear Technology, Compression Therapy and Rehabilitation Technology – [More details](#)
- May 11–14, Dresden, Germany: 113th German Medical Day – [More details](#)
- May 19-20, Zurich, Switzerland: 11th Annual BioEquity Europe – [More details](#)
- May 19-20, Lodz, Poland: BioForum – [More details](#)
- May 26-29, Halle (Saale), Germany: PSP – International Meeting on Proline-Specific Cleavage and Oxoprolinyl Formation – Functions and Therapeutic Strategies – [More details](#)
- June 1-2, Leipzig, Germany: EuroMedtech – [More details](#)
- June 2-4, Cambridge, UK: ERBI's 12th Annual BioPartnering Exchange – [More details](#)
- June 7-9, Düsseldorf, Germany: 6th International Conference on Renewable Resources & Biorefineries (RRB6) – [More details](#)
- June 14-15, Berlin, Germany: EuroPLX43 – Collaborative Agreements in Generics (incl. Biogenerics and Biosimilars), OTC Drugs, and Nutraceuticals, Development, Licensing, Marketing and Distribution – [More details](#)



June 14-15, Munich, Germany: 4th European Business Development Conference – [More details](#)

June 15–17, Munster, Germany: NanoBio Europe – [More details](#)

June 26 to July 1, Goteborg, Sweden: 35th FEBS Congress Molecules of Life – [More details](#)



For more events, go [here](#).

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