

BENTA PHARMA INDUSTRIES

- **Business:** Pharmaceutical production
- **Project:** Taking over a pharmaceutical site in receivership in Saint-Genis-Laval (Lyon metropolitan district)
- **Impacts:** Social and production
- **Source of capital:** Lebanon
- **Jobs within 3 years:** 135

Bernard Tannoury, Founder and CEO

 *We are a Lebanese group since we are operating in two countries. We strategically decided to establish ourselves in Europe and so we chose France and Lyon. We really appreciated the opportunity in Saint-Genis Laval and in the Lyon area because we studied in detail the ecosystem for the development in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology is well advanced and well developed. We decided to take over the site because in the procedure and here we are*



Developing a pharmaceutical industry is what we do, it's our job, it's our passion. We are going to add a lot of projects as a pharmaceutical incubator, a biotechnology incubator. Our project is ambitious, not only in generic products but even in biotech and cancer products that we are trying to develop. These are R&D products that we will soon be transferring to the site and to the Lyon area with clinical studies and all the complete development.

As you know, this was a takeover for a company that was in difficulty. We were able to keep 116 jobs, and we also added other jobs that did not exist on the site, but the 116 jobs that we kept, saved, were the jobs we needed. It was the expertise and know-how of the pharmaceutical industry in Lyon, which dates to the time of Sanofi, whose people had been working on the site for more than 20 years and whose expertise was well advanced and well developed. I think we have a very good team to start all our projects and several operational projects.

They supported us with the financial actors, the banks with the Bpi for the human resources for the legal, juridical regulation only to guide us to develop, to give us the necessary information, to identify all the actors and to take appointments to succeed in helping us as a foreign investor, a new foreign buyer, to give us all the ecosystem. We as Lebanese have a multiple crisis beyond Covid. We have the financial crisis, the political crisis. This gives us a kind of resilience. Once we have the will to develop and the will to move forward even in crises, we always find windows of opportunity. We will be able to make something beautiful, a beautiful success with all the partners who work with us and its employees and the satellite of the new in France and specifically in Lyon.