



DEPARTEMENT

Volkswirtschaft und Inneres
Director

Welcome Address by Cantonal Council Member Dieter Egli at the Lonza Groundbreaking Event on 31 January 2023 in Stein

((the spoken word applies))

Cher Mr Ruffieux, dear Lonza Employees, sehr geehrter Herr Gemeindeammann,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Minister for Economic Affairs of the Canton of Aargau, I thank you very much for this invitation on behalf of the Cantonal Government. It's a great pleasure to come to Stein and celebrate the groundbreaking with you.

Your project is up and running, the building permit has been issued and, today, we have come together to launch the process of laying the foundations. After many months of work, today vast numbers of ideas, needs, visions and concepts are transformed into a real result.

Of course, we still have to be a little patient until the production plant starts operating. But the facility to be built here over the next three years is going to move both your company and this region forward – you could even say that it will catapult us into the future. I'm proud to be joining you today as we take the first step together.

It is an important step for Lonza and for Aargau's economy. Everyone benefits from the construction of this facility – new jobs are being created and new synergies will be leveraged for northern Switzerland's pharma and life sciences cluster. This will enhance our canton's attractiveness as a location.

Of course I firmly believe you have made a good choice by opting for Aargau as your location. We offer the best conditions for ambitious and high value-added companies such as yours to advance their development. You are certainly aware of these advantages: our central location, attractive taxation, a varied range of educational facilities and research centres – and, last but not least, a high quality of life. The proof that you share our view is your handsome investment of over CHF 500 million here in the Sisslerfeld.

The filling line to be completed here will be the first of its type in Switzerland. You will then be able to deliver ready-to-use medicinal products. This will consolidate Lonza's status as a leading player in the medicinal products manufacturing sector.

You, dear Lonza employees, know what the requirements of tomorrow's markets are. Ever since Lonza's foundation in 1897 with the construction of an electricity generating plant, your company has shown a flair for identifying the trends of tomorrow. The electrification of Switzerland was just beginning and electricity production was a market of the future.

To these days, your company finally moved towards biotechnology and pharmaceuticals – an evolution that is truly fascinating. Lonza has always kept pace with the times and has been a leader in everything it has achieved and produced.

And Lonza is still one of the cornerstones of the Swiss economy. You engage in research and development, you manufacture products, you provide jobs and you educate trainees: in short, everything that is important for a successful economy.

We, the Canton of Aargau, are therefore extremely pleased that we can offer a home to a company that combines a long tradition with an innovative and future-oriented outlook. We appreciate that you are maintaining your loyalty to Aargau and are enlarging your site here.

By doing so, you are not only securing your own future but also giving us a future:

Clearly, your investment is also a gain for the municipality of Stein and the region. The 400 new jobs that you are creating are important for this region. And there are also the benefits for our local industries, where new jobs will be created as well.

Another factor at play here is that cooperation in the life sciences cluster here in the Basel region works so well.

As you know, Novartis was looking for a partner in a similar field and Lonza needed land. By acting as the interface between these players, our Economic Promotion Agency made it possible for the two companies to come together – and this collaboration is still ongoing today. This is another story of innovation and success!

You have invited us to write down some wishes for the new production plant that will be buried under the foundation stone later on. My wishes are simple and not very surprising – and I hope that I will not detract from the magic of the ceremony if I now read them out loud:

- I wish that the chapter of your history that you are starting to write today will be a successful one.
- And I wish that you will continue to be flexible in this new project and will view stones along the path not as obstacles but as creative challenges.

We will support you in this venture whenever we can. I am convinced that the path you have chosen is the right one and that your investment here will pay off.

In this sense, I am looking forward to continuing our collaboration and to maintaining our contacts and our exchange with you – in the interest of our common future!

I wish you good luck and much success! Thank you very much.