



## Gilles de Preux

CEO, Valsynthese



Mr. Gilles de Preux, CEO of SSE Holding, has more than 13 years of experience in SSE group which Valsynthese is part of.

With a background in Business and Economics, Mr. de Preux has been working more than 10 years in the Swiss multinational group Nestlé as Finance manager and Commercial manager before joining the Holding in 2009.

After an experience as CFO and Senior Vice President of the main Business Unit of the SSE group, since 2018 Mr. de Preux is CEO of SSE Holding.

Valsynthese, a Swiss CDMO based in the middle of the Alps, is specialised in high energetic and hazard chemistry.

During the year 2019 Valsynthese, part of the international group SSE Holding, has announced an important investment plan for the next 3 to 5 years.

Let's discover more.

### What about the investment plan?

The investment plan, internally named EREBUS, will allow Valsynthese to maintain and develop its position as a service premium partner in the CDMO field.

This investment plan will focus on technology, development of internal skills and systems.

The new production installation, the empowerment of internal talents and the implementation of innovative systems will allow us to effectively expand our know-how and consolidate our experience as well as our product portfolio.



### What are the technical characteristics of the new production installation that Valsynthese will start to build?

To have a complete package to provide to our customers, we built a complete new Kilo-Lab, also with the special ability to do hydrogenation-reactions up to 25 bar in a chemical-resistance Hastelloy equipment of 30 l. Furthermore, we are in a process to scale-up this up to production level. One production-facility gets extended by a new compartment to be able to do hydrogenations in the same level meaning up to a pressure of 25 bar in a 4'500 l reactor made of Hastelloy. This dedicated part will be, as well as the Kilo-Lab, fully qualified to run under GMP and will reflect the state-of the art safety and quality.

This investment adds a natural further step in our focus on hazardous chemistry current in place, such as nitration and phosgenation. As for example Amino group formation via hydrogenation is natural second step in APIs synthesis.

In a close future, through Hydrogenation technology we will offer to our customers broader possibilities in terms of synthesis steps.



### Talking about this new Hydrogenation production facility, what is its quality standards?

We will be able to use hydrogenation in ISO and GMP quality standards, the purpose is to increase our market penetration by being able to offer a further synthesis step both in pharmaceutical and fine chemicals applications.

### Can you give us a timeline of this expansion plan?

We kicked off our strategic plan at the end of 2019 with the aim to put in place all our equipment by 2023. Despite the pandemic situation we are confident that we will reach our goal.

### How will Valsynthese increase its market presence in the next few years?

Valsynthese continues to focus its strategy to be a high premium CDMO specialized in hazardous and high energetic chemistry.

Our recent major program EREBUS is the proof of our vision to sustain a double-digit growth for the next years. Moreover, the R&D laboratory services and the new Kg lab will allow us to provide more and more high-quality services to our customers.

Valsynthese with its unique culture and values which are based on entrepreneurship and flexibility will adopt also different partnership with customers to increase our market presence.

In the last few years and especially lately with the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a repositioning of the supply chain projects within the western countries. How is Valsynthese facing this new situation? What is Valsynthese answer to these new needs of the pharmaceutical and chemical industry?

Valsynthese, as high-quality services provider, is facing a very positive demand increase for many reshoring projects from many of the most important European and American blue-chip companies and not only. To cope with this positive demand, we have put in place different resources as well as asset strategy to be able to serve with increase interest our customers.

On the other side, the production plant in Brig is a worthwhile resource for the Valais area and we are proud to provide more and more workforce for the region and beyond.

### What is Valsynthese major commitment for the future?

Valsynthese is committed to be the partner of choice for high complex intermediate, which requires a special knowledge and to remain as a key employer where the human capital is the success key for the next years to come.

We are also convinced of the need to stand up for sustainable climate protection. Joining to the Swiss Private Sector Energy Agency programme, we commit to actively reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and optimizing energy efficiency.

For Valsynthese, innovation and strategic decisions have to go toward an environmentally and economically sustainable future to be really effective!

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