

Press Release 12/2009

Curetis AG: Development of products to effectively diagnose severe infections is secured until market entry.

€ 18.5 million Series A Financing Round closed

(Holzgerlingen, 3.12.2009) – A consortium of leading life-science venture capital funds invests € 18.5 million in the German medical diagnostics company Curetis AG. This financing will enable Curetis to complete development of its innovative diagnostic products through to market entry.

Founded in August 2007, Curetis is a molecular diagnostic company focusing on the development of tools to test for severe infectious diseases. The new financing of € 18.5 million is provided by an international consortium, composed of four partners – including the existing investor aeris CAPITAL, which seeded Curetis with € 1.4 million in 2008. New syndicate members include: LSP (Life Sciences Partners), BioMedPartners as well as the ERP-Startfonds of the KfW Bankengruppe. MedVenture Partners GmbH supported Curetis in concluding the transaction.

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Curetis is developing universal molecular diagnostic solutions, initially focusing on severe bacterial infections; i.e. pneumonia. Given that globally, over 25 million people are diagnosed each year with pneumonia, there is a strong demand for new devices identifying timely and cost-effective treatment options.

The investors' commitment was driven by Curetis' technology and know-how, as well as the promising market potential of its solutions. "Its products will solve a huge medical problem, making Curetis a very attractive investment. Hence the consortium is pleased to enable Curetis to further develop its products and commercialize them." commented Dr. Jörg Neermann, Partner at LSP. Dr. Neermann will join the Curetis supervisory board. Along with aeris CAPITAL and BioMedPartners, LSP will assume a leading role in the investment consortium. „Curetis has made significant progress in product development, which encouraged us to continue after our initial investment." explained the chairman of the supervisory board and aeris CAPITAL partner, Dr. Frank Mühlenbeck. The board will be further strengthened by the addition of Dr. Gerhard Ries, Partner at BioMedPartner.

„Curetis' management is very pleased to have succeeded in attracting such well-known investors with such profound expertise in the life-science-arena. In addition to their financial investments, all of them will contribute invaluable know-how. The fact, that we could close this significant round with such a strong syndicate in today's stressed financial markets is a testament to our investors' confidence in Curetis' potential", commented the managing directors of Curetis AG Johannes Bacher and Andreas Boos.

About aeris CAPITAL (Switzerland)

aeris CAPITAL is a private investment office. As investment manager, aeris CAPITAL covers all asset classes, in a global context. Operating from a sustainable base and with a long-term horizon, aeris CAPITAL strives for the highest quality in all its activities, seeking to deliver superior, risk adjusted returns to its investors.

About LSP (The Netherlands)

LSP (Life Sciences Partners) is a leading independent European venture capital firm, providing private equity financing life-science companies. Since the late 1980s, LSP's management has invested in a large number of highly innovative enterprises, many of which have grown to become leaders of the global life-science industry. For example, LSP was a founding investor in Crucell, DNage, Qiagen, Rhein Biotech and Pharming. With € 500 million under management and offices in Amsterdam, Munich and Boston, LSP is one of Europe's largest and most experienced specialist life-science investors.

About BioMedPartners (Switzerland)

BioMedPartners is a leading independent European venture capital firm providing private equity and mezzanine financing to early- to mid-stage healthcare and life-science companies. Since 2003, BioMedPartners has invested in over 30 highly innovative companies, of which four have already either successfully completed an IPO (Arpida AG, Santhera Pharmaceuticals AG) or have been acquired by leading Pharma companies (ESBATech AG, Glycart Biotechnology AG, Thommen Medical AG). Currently, BioMedPartners manages three funds (BioMedInvest I & II and BioMedCredit Switzerland). With more than CHF 250 million in capital under management and a strong team of experienced specialists and industry experts as well as an extensive scientific and financial network, BioMedPartners has established itself as one of the leading early-stage healthcare investors in Europe.

About KfW (Germany)

The KfW is an important finance partner for future oriented entrepreneurs. She bundles federal loan programs for founders, small and mid-sized enterprises. With the support of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, the ERP-Startfonds from KfW Mittelstandsbank provides venture capital to small technology companies for financing the development of innovative products, processes or services

About MedVenture Partners (Germany)

MedVenture Partners is a corporate finance and strategy advisory company, focused on the life-science and healthcare industries. Its clients range from corporate clients to financial investors active in those industries. The strength of MedVenture's solutions lies in the combination of corporate finance and public health expertise as well as execution capabilities. MedVenture provides in-depth expert knowledge involving both the formal and informal structures of the various healthcare systems.

About Curetis (Germany)

Founded in 2007, Curetis AG is a molecular diagnostics company which focuses on the development and commercialization of reliable, fast and cost-effective tools for diagnosing severe infectious diseases. The diagnostic solutions of Curetis AG will enable rapid multiparameter pathogen and antibiotic resistance detection in only a few hours, a process that today can take up to days or even weeks with other techniques.

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