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Gimv investiert in das Immunonkologie-Start-up ImCheck Therapeutics

Gimv investiert 5 Millionen Euro in ImCheck Therapeutics, ein französisches Unternehmen, das in der präklinischen Phase an neuartigen Antikörpern arbeitet, die das Immunsystem gegen eine Reihe unterschiedlicher Krebsarten aktivieren. Die Investition ist Teil einer Serie-A-Finanzierungsrunde im Umfang von insgesamt 20 Millionen Euro durch ein auf Life Sciences spezialisiertes Investorenkonsortium, dem auch Kurma, Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF), Idinvest und Life Science Partners (LSP) angehören.

ImCheck Therapeutics wurde 2015 als Spin-off des Paoli Calmette Cancer Institute in Marseille gegründet. Das Unternehmen entwickelt innovative Antikörper-Therapien im Bereich der Immunonkologie und stützt sich dabei auf Erkenntnisse von Prof. Daniel Olive, der in diesem Feld wissenschaftliche Pionierarbeit geleistet hat. Mit dem frischen Kapital wird das Unternehmen seine besten Wirkstoffkandidaten in Richtung klinische Entwicklung führen und seine Forschungsprogramme weiter vorantreiben.

Karl Nägler, Partner im Health & Care Team von Gimv, sagt zu dieser Transaktion: *„Wir freuen uns über die Partnerschaft mit ImCheck und mit diesem erstklassigen Investorenkonsortium, denn die Wirkstoffkandidaten des Unternehmens könnten in der Krebsbehandlung zu bahnbrechenden Erfolgen führen. Nach Investitionen in Topas Therapeutics, G-Therapeutics, Endostim, Spineart und Breath Therapeutics ist ImCheck Therapeutics für das Health-&-Care-Team von Gimv die sechste Neuinvestition in den vergangenen zwölf Monaten.“*

Weitere Informationen finden Sie in der angehängten Pressemitteilung des Unternehmens.

ÜBER GIMV

Gimv ist eine europäische Investmentgesellschaft mit mehr als drei Jahrzehnten Erfahrung in Private Equity und Venture Capital. Das Unternehmen ist an der Euronext Brüssel notiert und verwaltet derzeit rund 1,8 Mrd. EUR (inklusive Investmentpartnerschaften) und investiert aktuell in 50 Portfoliogesellschaften.

Als anerkannter Marktführer für exklusive Investmentplattformen identifiziert Gimv innovative Gesellschaften mit Führungsqualitäten, die über hohes Wachstumspotenzial verfügen, und unterstützt diese auf ihrem Weg zur Marktführerschaft. Jede der vier Investmentplattformen Connected Consumer, Health & Care, Smart Industries und Sustainable Cities wird von einem engagierten und kompetenten Team betreut, das jeweils in den heimischen Märkten von Gimv - den Benelux-Staaten, Frankreich und Deutschland - ansässig ist und von einem umfassenden internationalen Experten-Netzwerk unterstützt wird.

Weitere Informationen über Gimv finden Sie auf www.gimv.com.

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ImCheck Therapeutics raises €20 Million and appoints its CEO

Emerging leader in immuno-oncology accelerates its development programs and prepares for entry into the clinic

Marseille, France, May 2nd 2017 (5:45 PM CEST) – ImCheck Therapeutics, an emerging player in the field of cancer and auto-immunity, today announced the completion of a €20 Million Series A financing round led by Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF), Kurma Partners, Idinvest and joined by Gimv and LSP. ImCheck is developing a new generation of proprietary immuno-modulatory antibodies acting on both adaptive and innate immunity (notably gamma-delta T-cells).

In conjunction with this financing, ImCheck appointed Pierre d'Epenoux as Chief Executive Officer. Pierre brings with him two decades of operational management and corporate development experience in pharma and biotech.

“It is a rare opportunity to drive to clinic cutting-edge science in the red-hot competitive area of immuno-oncology. With the favorable bench-to bedside environment offered by the Marseille Cancer Research Center and the Paoli-Calmettes Cancer Institute, Daniel Olive and his team have built a worldwide renowned expertise in the co-signaling pathways regulating the innate and the adaptive immune systems as well as demonstrate their ability to develop & partner innovative drug candidates” said Pierre d'Epenoux. “I am delighted to join Imcheck at this exciting development stage of the company and together with its outstanding team, quickly put on the map a novel class of drugs with the potential to overcome resistance to currently available treatments for cancer & auto-immune diseases”.

“Imcheck’s ability to attract renowned international investors and great managerial talents, with experience in building strategic organizations and structuring long-term valuable partnerships confirms the attractiveness of the science and the potential of this new force in immuno-oncology” said Dr. Rémi Droller, Managing Partner at Kurma Partners and ImCheck’s Chairman of the Board.

“The significant funding raised at this stage of development of the company will provide the resources for an ambitious development plan of several drug-candidates and entry into the clinic by 2019”, added Prof. Daniel Olive.

About IMCHECK THERAPEUTICS

ImCheck Therapeutics is a privately-held French biotech company pioneering the next generation of immune checkpoint modulators with a highly differentiated & diversified portfolio of first-in-class therapeutic antibodies in cancers and auto-immunity.

ImCheck is a spin-off from Marseille's Institut Paoli-Calmettes (IPC), one of the leading cancer centers in Europe and developing intellectual property licensed from Inserm Transfert and SATT-SE. The company was founded in 2015 around Daniel Olive (Professor of immunology at Aix-Marseille University (AMU) and IPC), a pioneer in innate immunity & co-signaling molecules and Head of the immune monitoring program for early stage clinical trials in oncology at IPC.

With a precision medicine-based translational approach and several established academic collaborations, ImCheck is uniquely positioned to develop the right therapy for the right patient. To-date, ImCheck is developing two first-in-class immunomodulator antibodies and is advancing several discovery programs on undisclosed targets, who play a defined immune-modulating role in both innate and adaptive immunity.

Based in Marseille - France, within the Marseille's Cancer Research Center (IPC, CNRS, Inserm, AMU), ImCheck has a team of ten scientists and is engaged in an active recruitment dynamic.

For more information, please visit www.imchecktherapeutics.com

About Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund

The Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF) was formed in March 2010 to invest in biotechnology and start-up companies to help drive innovation in medical science. The investment focus includes - but is not limited to immunomodulation, esp. immuno-oncology, tissue regeneration, new therapeutic modalities, e.g. gene therapy, cell-based therapeutics, ADC, and microbiome. This reflects BIVF's interest in platform technologies and the extension of the current therapeutic area focus of Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) and demonstrates BIVF's commitment to investigate new treatment modalities and technologies, beyond BI's existing landscape, for the potential future benefit of patients. BIVF takes an active role with its portfolio companies - delivering significant added value through its own extensive drug discovery, scientific and managerial expertise. The BIVF has €100 million under management and supervises currently a portfolio of 18 active companies.

For more information, please visit www.boehringer-ingelheim-venture.com

About Kurma Partners

Created in 2009, Kurma Partners is a European leading venture capital group specialized in Life Sciences and managing Kurma Biofund I, Kurma biofund II and its accelerator fund, Kurma Diagnostics. The company has more than 250M€ under management and develops an investment strategy supported by both the selection of best investment opportunity in Europe and the development of a "proprietary" portfolio of company in which Kurma intervenes at creation stage.

For more information, please visit www.kurmapartners.com

About Idinvest

With €8 billion under management, Idinvest Partners is a leading pan-European private equity firm focused on the mid-market segment. Idinvest Partners has developed several complementary areas of expertise including investments in innovative European start-ups, primary, secondary and mezzanine investments in unlisted European companies, and private equity consulting. Founded under the name AGF Private Equity in 1997, Idinvest Partners was formerly part of Allianz until 2010 when it became an independent firm.

For more information, please visit www.idinvest.com

About GIMV

Gimv is a European investment company with over three decades experience in private equity and venture capital. The company is listed on Euronext Brussels. Gimv currently manages around 1.8 billion EUR (including co-investment partnerships) of investments in about 50 portfolio companies.

As a recognized market leader in selected investment platforms, Gimv identifies entrepreneurial and innovative companies with high-growth potential and supports them in their transformation into market leaders. Gimv's four investment platforms are: Connected Consumer, Health & Care, Smart Industries and Sustainable Cities. Each of these platforms works with a skilled and dedicated team across Gimv's home markets of the Benelux, France and Germany and can count on an extended international network of experts.

For more information, please visit www.gimv.com

About LSP

LSP (Life Sciences Partners) is a leading independent European investment firm, providing financing for private and public 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. With over USD 1 billion of investment capital raised to date and offices in Amsterdam, Munich and Boston, LSP is one of Europe's largest and most experienced specialist life-science investors.

For more information, please visit www.lspvc.com

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