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# Communiqué De Presse

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## Gimv investit 4,25 millions d'EUR dans la société biotechnologique néerlandaise Prosensa

Gimv investit 4,25 millions d'EUR dans le tour de table série B de la société biotechnologique néerlandaise Prosensa ([www.prosensa.eu](http://www.prosensa.eu)). Gimv et AGF (France) étaient les co-investisseurs dans un tour de financement total de 18 millions d'EUR. Les investisseurs existants Abingworth (UK), LSP (Pays-Bas) et Medsciences Capital (Pays-Bas) ont également participé à cet augmentation de capital.

Prosensa a été fondé en 2002 et se concentre principalement sur le traitement de maladies neuromusculaires. A cette fin la société se sert d'une plateforme technologique brevetée qui est unique et révolutionnaire grâce à ce qu'on appelle *exon skipping*. Cette technique peut corriger de l'ARN qui a subi des mutations. L'entreprise se focalise au premier lieu sur la maladie musculaire de Duchenne, contre laquelle elle a déjà développé deux produits qui se trouvent à la phase clinique I /II.

La dystrophie musculaire de Duchenne est une maladie neuromusculaire grave qui débute dans l'enfance et cause un affaiblissement des muscles. La maladie est due à des mutations du gène DMD, qui est d'une importance primordiale pour l'intégrité des membranes des fibres musculaires. La maladie affecte 1 garçon nouveau-né sur 3 500. Les jeunes patients souffrent d'une faiblesse musculaire progressive. Avant l'âge de 12 ans ils dépendent d'un fauteuil roulant et la plupart d'eux meurt à cause d'insuffisance respiratoire ou cardiaque. Jusqu'à présent aucun traitement n'a été trouvé pour mettre fin à cette maladie fatale.

L'investissement dans Prosensa constitue la huitième participation de l'équipe de Gimv Life Sciences au Benelux, son marché intérieur. Leurs autres participations au Benelux sont Ablynx, Actogenix, Galapagos, Movetis, Pamgene, Pronota et Thrombogenics.

Vous trouverez plus d'informations sur Prosensa dans le communiqué de presse en annexe.



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Pour de plus amples informations, n'hésitez pas à contacter :

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Gimv est une société d'investissement européenne, riche d'une expérience de près de 30 ans en matière de private equity et de capital risque. L'entreprise est cotée sur Euronext Brussels et gère près de 1,8 milliards EUR (en ce compris les fonds tiers).

Gimv entreprend des rachats d'entreprises et fournit un capital développement à des entreprises établies. Gimv dispose à cette fin de quatre équipes locales en Belgique, aux Pays-Bas, en France et en Allemagne. Dans les secteurs technologiques, Gimv investit du capital risque par le biais de ses équipes spécialisées dans l'entreprise des secteurs Life Sciences, Technologie et Cleantech.

Au Benelux, Gimv se concentre également sur des projets d'infrastructure par le biais du fonds DG Infra+. Pour des investissements de capital développement en Russie, Gimv a créé une joint-venture avec KBC Private Equity.

Vous trouverez de plus amples informations concernant Gimv sur [www.gimv.com](http://www.gimv.com).

## Annexe

Communiqué de presse de Prosensa

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Prosensa raises EUR 18 million Series B financing

Leiden, Netherlands, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Prosensa Holding B.V., a Netherlands based biotechnology company focused on RNA interference therapeutics using exon skipping technology, today announced that it has closed an EUR 18 million series B round. The investor base will be strengthened by Gimv (Antwerp) and AGF (Paris). Current shareholders LSP and Abingworth, leading international investors based in Amsterdam and London respectively, and MedSciences Capital, also an existing shareholder, also participated in the round.

Prosensa will use the funds to develop its two lead programs, in the field of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), through clinical proof of concept studies. Prosensa's exon skipping technology uses oligoribonucleotides to restore production of dystrophin, the protein defective in DMD patients. These oligonucleotides are designed to remove an unwanted segment of the faulty DMD gene product, and represent a major step toward the development of an effective therapy for DMD. There is currently no curative therapy for this lethal condition.

"We are delighted to have concluded this financing round in a difficult financial climate with a syndicate of highly experienced life sciences investors. The funds raised will enable us to achieve human proof of concept even more quickly with our key DMD program, in line with our goal of building the company into a focused, product development company.", said Gerard Platenburg, Prosensa's CEO. Following the closing of this financing round, Dr Jim Van heusden (Gimv) and Dr Remi Droller (AGF) will join the Supervisory Board.

Dr Jim Van heusden commented: "Prosensa's exon skipping technology is one of the most promising new approaches to treat DMD and a number of other genetic diseases. The current financing round will allow Prosensa to further show the full potential of its lead compound PRO051, which so far produced exciting clinical data."

Remi Droller commented: "Prosensa offers a truly compelling investment opportunity: We have already seen promising clinical data emerging from Prosensa technology that address important, unmet medical needs and this first class investment syndicate will give to the company the resources to reach major achievements in DMD treatment. AGF Private Equity is very pleased to support Prosensa pioneering work."

#### About Prosensa ([www.prosensa.eu](http://www.prosensa.eu))

Prosensa BV is an innovative Dutch Biopharmaceutical Company focused on the discovery, development, and commercialization of nucleic acid based therapeutics correcting gene expression in diseases with large unmet medical needs, in particular neuromuscular disorders. The Company is focused on developing a medicine for DMD (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy). DMD is a genetic lethal childhood's disease with an incidence of approximately 1 in 3,500 new born boys. Clinical signs of muscle weakness start as early as 2 years of age affecting all muscles. Treatment of patients with DMD to date primarily involves supportive therapy. No curative treatment, re-establishing the function of dystrophin, the protein that is lacking in DMD patients, is yet available.



#### **About Gimv ([www.gimv.com](http://www.gimv.com))**

Gimv is a European investment company with nearly 30 years of experience in private equity and venture capital. The company is listed on Euronext Brussels and currently manages around EUR 1.8 billion of assets (including third party funds). Gimv undertakes buyouts and provides growth capital to established companies. Local teams in Belgium, France, The Netherlands and Germany concentrate on these activities. Gimv makes venture capital investments in the technology sector through its specialist teams in Life Sciences, Technology and Cleantech.

Its DG Infra+ fund focuses on infrastructure projects in the Benelux. For growth capital investments in Russia, Gimv has a joint venture with KBC Private Equity. For more information about Gimv, please visit our website: [www.gimv.com](http://www.gimv.com)

#### **About AGF Private Equity ([www.agfpe.com](http://www.agfpe.com))**

AGF Private Equity, a subsidiary of the Allianz Group, is specialised in capital-investment. The company manages an investment portfolio of more than 2 billion Euros, is among the leaders in managing funds of funds and venture capital. The Venture capital team has invested in seventy high-tech companies. AGF Private Equity has a regular and long-term investment capacity: around 50 million Euros are invested each year in young companies with strong potential. With close to 450 million Euros under management in its Venture Capital activity, AGF Private Equity is an active partner of growth companies. For more information, [www.agfpe.com](http://www.agfpe.com)

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