



Press release

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Gimv, VIB and University of Antwerp invest EUR 2.0 million in molecular diagnostics startup Multiplicom

Gimv, Gimv managed Biotechfonds Vlaanderen, VIB and University of Antwerp (UA) together invest EUR 2.0 million in a Series-A funding round of Multiplicom, a Belgian startup focused on molecular diagnostics. Gimv and Gimv managed funds invest EUR 1.5 million. VIB and UA together invest the balance of EUR 0.5 million.

Multiplicom (www.multiplicom.com) is a spin out of the Jurgen Del-Favero lab of the VIB Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Antwerp (UA), directed by Christine Van Broeckhoven, where its core Multiplexer™ technology was developed. The proceeds of the financing will be used for the development of innovative diagnostic tests, CE-marking of diagnostic assays, and to build a sales network in the European Union.

Multiplicom is specialized in the development, manufacturing and commercialization of innovative molecular genetic tests. These tests allow (i) to determine whether an individual has an increased genetic risk to develop a disease, (ii) early detection of congenital genetic defect, or (iii) to identify the most appropriate therapy for patients. Multiplicom's assays offer a significant overall reduction in cost and time for next generation sequencing based genetic analysis.

Multiplicom already offers several diagnostic assays, including assays for breast cancer and cystic fibrosis. The company's initial focus will be on direct sales in Western European countries in combination with newly to be appointed distributors in other countries. Moreover, Multiplicom is already using its Multiplexer™ technology in collaboration with pharma companies to identify genetic markers linked to drug safety and/or efficacy.

Dirk Pollet, Multiplicom's CEO, on this transaction: "VIB and UA have excelled in nurturing the Multiplexer™ technology that is unique in its ability to make highly complex genetic analysis simple to perform, building on the DNA sequencing power of the next generation sequencers that are being introduced in molecular genetic labs. With the support of a reputable investor such as Gimv, it is our objective to develop a broad range of CE-labeled diagnostic assays that will help patients and doctors to better understand the genetic basis of certain diseases and predispositions, such that personalized medicine can become a reality".

Multiplicom is the sixth VIB startup (after Ablynx, Actogenix, Cropdesign, Devgen and Pronota) to receive funding from Gimv.



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Gimv

Gimv is a European investment company with 30 years' experience in private equity and venture capital. The company is listed on the NYSE Euronext Brussels and manages around 1.8 billion EUR (including third parties' funds). Gimv invests in buyouts and provides growth financing to established companies. For this Gimv has four local teams in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany. Through the Gimv-XL fund growth capital is invested in larger companies in Flanders. In high-tech sectors Gimv invests venture capital through its specialized teams in Life Sciences, Technology and Cleantech. In the Benelux Gimv also focuses on infrastructure projects with its DG Infra+ and DG Infra Yield funds. Additionally, Gimv is active in Central and Eastern Europe through funds and joint ventures.

More information: www.gimv.com

VIB

VIB is a non-profit research institute in life sciences, based in Flanders, Belgium, with about 1,200 scientists conducting groundbreaking research on the molecular mechanisms that are responsible for the functioning of the human body, plants, and microorganisms. Through a close partnership with four Flemish universities – UGent, K.U.Leuven, University of Antwerp, and Vrije Universiteit Brussel – and a solid funding program, VIB unites the forces of 72 research groups in a single institute. The goal of the research is to extend the boundaries of our knowledge of life profoundly. Through its technology transfer activities, VIB wants to convert research results into products for the benefit of consumers and patients. VIB develops and disseminates a wide range of scientifically substantiated information about all aspects of biotechnology.

More information: www.vib.be

University of Antwerp

The University of Antwerp is a research university, where frontier and innovative research is proceeded. Research and education go hand in hand. We pay continuously attention to education innovation, and we take special care of the reception and supervision of our fourteen thousand students. The University of Antwerp is not an island on her own : we raise a bridge to education, industry, the entire society. With her four thousand employees, the University of Antwerp is one of the most important employers in Antwerp, the biggest city in Flanders.

More information: www.ua.ac.be