



## Press Release

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# Multiplicom NV can accelerate growth following a EUR 5.5 million capital injection by Gimv, PMV, Rudi Mariën, Qbic and VIB

Multiplicom NV, a Belgian start-up specialised in molecular diagnostics, has succeeded in raising EUR 5.5 million from a group of experienced life sciences investors. The shareholder consortium has been joined by Flemish investment company PMV, RMM (Rudi Mariën) and Qbic ARKIV Fund. The original investors – Gimv, the Gimv-managed Biotech Fonds Vlaanderen and VIB – continue to support the growth of the company. VIB will again be making an investment in kind. This capital increase gives Multiplicom the opportunity to develop further diagnostic tests, fund international validation studies and expand its European sales channels.

Multiplicom NV was formed in 2010 as a spin-off of the University of Antwerp and VIB. It is specialised in the development, production and sale of user-friendly genetic tests based on highly innovative molecular diagnostic technologies. The tests make it possible to identify an increased genetic risk to develop a disease, identify congenital defects at an early stage or identify the most suitable therapy for patients. It gives clinical genetics labs the option to explore the latest generation of personalised medicine in an affordable way.

In 2012, Multiplicom was the first business in Europe to be awarded CE certification for its test to detect genetic defects that might indicate an increased risk of ovarian cancer or breast cancer. The company is also continually working on the development of tests for other conditions.

For research applications, Multiplicom is already selling kits for cystic fibrosis, bowel cancer, heart failure, kidney disease and muscle disease. From 2013, validation studies will also be conducted with a view to obtaining CE certification. Also in 2013, Multiplicom is planning the introduction of a new series of kits that can detect DNA mutations in cancerous tissue. Consulting physicians can use the information obtained to select the most appropriate therapy for their patient.

*Dirk Pollet, CEO of Multiplicom: "This capital injection will allow us to carry out our ambitious plan to develop innovative molecular diagnostic kits and to remain at the forefront of European businesses in this new branch of medicine."*

*"In the past year, Multiplicom has confirmed its huge growth potential in molecular diagnostics. It is therefore no surprise that there was a lot of interest from new investors willing to back the company. We are pleased, given the prevailing difficult investment climate, that the second round of funding has concluded successfully," says Christophe Van Vaeck, Associate Health & Care at Gimv.*

*"It is clear that diagnostics will play an increasingly important role in keeping medicine affordable in the coming decade," says Bram Vanparrys, Life Sciences Investment Manager at PMV. He adds: "The way in which the experienced management team at Multiplicom valorises the VIB technology as innovative diagnostic tests could not be better aligned with PMV's vision in this market. This is why PMV is very enthusiastic about its role in the continuing growth story of Multiplicom."*

*"Multiplicom's technology is state-of-the-art and differentiates itself by its simplicity in the complex world of genetic tests," says Marc Zabeau, serial entrepreneur in biotech and Managing Partner at Qbic.*



## Contact

Dr Dirk Pollet - CEO Multiplicom  
T +32 478 376 369 – mail : [dirk.pollet@multiplicom.com](mailto:dirk.pollet@multiplicom.com)

Frank De Leenheer – Investor Relations & Corporate Communications Manager Gimv  
T +32 3 290 22 18 – mail: [frank.deleenheer@gimv.com](mailto:frank.deleenheer@gimv.com)

Ben Jehaes – Communication Manager PMV  
M +32 495 547 840 – mail : [ben.jehaes@pmv.eu](mailto:ben.jehaes@pmv.eu)

Dr. Marc Zabeau – managing partner Qbic  
M +32 475 329 753 – mail: [marc.zabeau@qbic.be](mailto:marc.zabeau@qbic.be)

## About Multiplicom

Multiplicom ([www.multiplicom.com](http://www.multiplicom.com)) is a Belgian biotech company focused on human genetic diagnostics. The company is a spinout of the research team of Jurgen Del-Favero at the VIB Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Antwerp (UA), headed by Christine van Broeckhoven. In April 2011 Gimv, the by Gimv managed *Biotechfonds Vlaanderen*, VIB and UA invested in total 2 million Euro in the series A financing.

## About Gimv

Gimv ([www.gimv.com](http://www.gimv.com)) is a European investment company with over three decades experience in private equity and venture capital. Gimv is listed on NYSE Euronext Brussels. Gimv currently manages around 1.8 billion EUR (including third party funds) of investments in 85 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: Consumer 2020, Health & Care, Smart Industries and Sustainable Cities.

## About PMV

PMV nv ([www.pmv.eu](http://www.pmv.eu)) is a Flemish investment company. It offers financing solutions to companies that operate in Flanders and have a sound business plan and management team. It covers a company's entire development cycle, from its earliest inception to its growth and internationalization. Besides corporate investments, PMV also invests in large infrastructure projects and real estate. It focuses on the sustainable economic development of Flanders, with demonstrable added value for both economy and society. PMV's Flanders' Care Invest fund aims at augmenting the quality of care in Flanders by innovating it. It provides equity to companies that develop and market innovative new products and services, and is part of the Flanders' Care project, which constitutes an important element of the Flanders in Action Campaign.

## About Qbic

Qbic ([www.qbic.be](http://www.qbic.be)) is an inter-university early stage venture capital fund that invests in spin-offs of the universities of Ghent, Brussels and Antwerp and of their associated colleges and university hospitals. The Qbic Fund was established in May 2012 with an initial committed capital of 30,5 million EUR to support the creation of spin-off companies with both capital and hands-on support and coaching. The Qbic ARKIV Fund is a joint initiative with the ARKImedes II Fund.

## About VIB

VIB ([www.vib.be](http://www.vib.be)) is a non-profit research institute in life sciences. About 1,300 scientists conduct strategic basic 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, KU Leuven, University of Antwerp, and Vrije Universiteit Brussel – and a solid funding program, VIB unites the forces of 76 research groups in a single institute. The goal of the research is to extend the boundaries of our knowledge of life. Through its technology transfer activities, VIB translates research results into products for the benefit of consumers and patients and contributes to new economic activity. VIB has already established various spin-off companies, including DevGen, CropDesign, Ablynx, Pronota, Actogenix, Multiplicom, Q-Biologicals and AgroSavfe.