



Press release

Darmstadt – Pfungstadt – Bonn, 18 May 2010

Zedira takes diagnostics specialist R-Biopharm on board

As part of a capital increase, R-Biopharm AG has acquired a minority shareholding in Zedira GmbH. With this strategic investment the diagnostics company has secured exclusive access to the celiac disease specialist's products. High-Tech Gründerfonds has also taken part in the capital increase by investing further in Zedira.

Managing partner Dr Martin Hils explains the benefits for Zedira: "Our products contribute to improving celiac disease diagnostics. In R-Biopharm we have a first-rate partner at our side who will take on the marketing of certified in-vitro diagnostic products. As an addition to its solid business involving special R&D reagents, this will further enhance the Company's independence from the capital market."

Joint managing partner Dr Ralf Pasternack adds: "Strategic partnerships are an ideal option for funding development-oriented businesses. We also see opportunity for gaining strategic partners for our active ingredient development projects involving the indication areas of celiac disease and thrombosis."

Dr Ralf Dreher, R-Biopharm AG's managing director, summarises the reasons for this investment: "Zedira has positioned itself as a producer of high-quality diagnostic antigens, paired with comprehensive scientific understanding of celiac disease. Its work at the interface between diagnostics and therapy generates products that are of interest to R-Biopharm because of their unique selling propositions."

Marco Winzer, director of investment at High-Tech-Gründerfonds, rates the deal from the investor's perspective: "R-Biopharm AG's strategic investment represents the next step in the company's development. Zedira proves that raising finance is achievable even in a difficult setting. We are pleased to be assisting the company in

this round as well, and expect in the future to see further investor involvement or possibly a pharmaceuticals company acquiring a stake.”

Brief profile of Zedira

The Darmstadt-based biotech company focuses on celiac disease and consequently also on the transglutaminases family of enzymes. The Company develops, produces and markets products for research and development as well as for diagnostics.

Based on its patented family of low-molecular transglutaminase blockers, Zedira is establishing an active ingredient pipeline covering the primary indication of celiac disease. As an area of secondary indication the Company is working on new approaches to thrombosis prophylaxis.

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Brief profile of R-Biopharm

Working in the fields of clinical diagnostics and food and feed analysis, R-Biopharm employs its innovative and reliable products to develop pioneering solutions for successful worldwide distribution.

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Brief profile of High-Tech Gründerfonds

The High-Tech Grunderfonds invests risk capital in young, high-potential technology companies that convert promising research results in business success. By means of the seed financing the start-ups shall carry on with the R & D project until the provision of a prototype or a "proof of concept" or until the launching on the market. The High-Tech Grunderfonds has a funds volume of about 272 million EUR. Investors of the Public Private Partnership are the German Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology, the KfW Banking Group and the six industrial company groups BASF, Deutsche Telekom, Siemens, Robert Bosch, Daimler, and Carl Zeiss

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