



Cilian Closes € 5 Million Series B Financing

Münster, Germany, April 02, 2004 – Cilian AG, a privately held company leveraging a novel expression system to produce recombinant proteins and therapeutic enzymes, today announced the first closing of its Series B funding, securing € 5 million, today. Lead investor Limburg Ventures was joined by a number of existing shareholders including ABN AMRO Capital and Newmex Ventures. "We are delighted to have supported Cilian since its inception", says Sander Slootweg, Investment Director with ABN AMRO Capital, "Achieving funding targets in such a difficult market, further validates the Cilian value proposition. With the money raised, the company can take its two lead products into the clinic and further validate and develop its production platform over the next two years. "

Cilian is developing and marketing biopharmaceuticals produced in its novel, proprietary expression system. Its current product pipeline consists of a proprietary product targeting pancreatic insufficiency and a product treating a specific lysosomal storage disease. The proceeds of this round will be used to advance both products into the clinic and to move the production platform towards an industrial standard. To accelerate progress, Cilian will be opening a new R&D facilities at the Research Campus Geleen (NL), located in the Meuse Rhine biotechnology cluster, providing access to a cluster of over 300 biotechnology companies, five universities and many research institutes.

"The completion of the financing round enables us to capitalize on the advances that have been made in the translation of an exciting technology into products" , says Dr. Christine Lemke, CEO. "Our goal is to radically enhance the access to biopharmaceuticals, by leveraging a novel expression system with unique capabilities." Dr. Christine Lemke joined Cilian in October of 2003 to further strengthen the management board during the financing round. Dr. Christine Lemke, who has over twelve years experience in business development, operations and finance management in the pharmaceutical, medical device and biotech industry, will succeed Dr. Axel Goehler as CEO. Dr. Axel Goehler managing partner and founder of Newmex, Cilian's seed investor, served as interim CEO/CFO for Cilian AG. He will continue to support Cilian with his expertise and existing life science network in his role as a business advisor.

About ABN AMRO Capital

ABN AMRO Capital is the private equity arm of ABN AMRO Bank N.V.. Next to a portfolio of EUR 2 billion in later stage investments, ABN AMRO Capital manages certain venture capital investments, especially in the Life Sciences arena. A team of five dedicated investment professionals has built a portfolio of 25 companies active in drug discovery and development, medical devices and medical technology.

About Cilian AG

Founded in 2001 by Dr. Marcus Hartmann and partners, Cilian is a privately held biotechnology company developing and marketing a novel expression system. The Company uses a species of Ciliates, a eukaryotic single-cell organism, for the production of enzymes and therapeutic proteins. While Ciliates secrete a number of therapeutically relevant enzymes with high expression rates by nature, recombinant proteins can be produced as well by Ciliates using genetically modified cells.

Leveraging the unique capabilities of the Ciliates, the Company aims to produce proteins at an unmatched quality and price, thereby fulfilling its mission to improve human health by facilitating access to biopharmaceuticals. To learn more about Cilian please visit www.cilian.com.

About Limburg Ventures

Limburg Ventures manages a fund that focuses on supporting those companies in life sciences or advanced materials willing to establish themselves in Limburg, and preferably at the Research Campus of Chemelot. Next to DSM and LIOF, third partner in the fund is the Mourmans Groep.

Limburg Ventures is building on what is already available in the area and will invest in companies that have already achieved a proof of principle but need capital to grow.

That might include relatively new companies looking to expand, more mature companies seeking lab or manufacturing space, or spinouts from biotechnology companies in the market for a new home. Limburg Ventures, which expects to invest between EUR 250,000 and EUR 1.5 million per company, will likely look for further co-investors, especially for larger deals.

About Newmex Ventures GmbH

Newmex Ventures is part of a group of businesses under the Newmex Holding AG, a consulting and venture capital firm based in Hamburg.

Newmex actively supports entrepreneurs in attractive technologies and fast-growing markets, with the track record of successfully accompanying life sciences in their development.

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