

Press Release September 14, 2009

BIOMEDPARTNERS ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF ESBATECH BY ALCON

Basel, Switzerland – BioMedPartners, one of Europe’s leading healthcare venture capital firms, announces today that its portfolio company ESBATech AG will be acquired by Alcon, Inc. [NYSE:ACL], the world’s leading eye care company. Alcon will pay ESBATech’s shareholders USD 150 million in cash at closing, plus contingent payments of up to an additional USD 439 million based upon the achievement of future research and development milestones.

ESBATech AG is a clinical-stage biotechnology company that has developed a pipeline of antibody-based therapeutics for a range of indications. Through the acquisition, Alcon will gain exclusive rights to the ESBATech technology and research platform for the treatment of all eye diseases, including age-related macular degeneration, diabetic macular edema, glaucoma, dry eye and uveitis. Substantially all of ESBATech’s employees will join Alcon when the deal closes, which is expected to be in the next two weeks.

The rights to apply this unique platform in all other areas of medicine are retained by the previous shareholders of ESBATech. As part of the transaction, these rights will be spun off into a separate company, Delenex Therapeutics AG.

BioMedPartners was among ESBATech’s first investors and was instrumental in building the company over the last years. The upfront payment from this transaction already generates an attractive return on the capital invested. In addition, a significant upside remains in the form of future milestone payments from Alcon for the purchase of ESBATech and through Delenex Therapeutics’ use of the platform in all indications outside of ophthalmology.

Dr. Gerhard Ries, General Partner and Co-Founder of BioMedPartners as well as Board Member of ESBATech, comments: “ESBATech is a prime example of successful Swiss life science innovation. This trade sale proves our strategy to invest in young and highly innovative technology companies which have the potential to become global leaders in their fields as well as to actively support our portfolio companies in business and corporate development.”

About BioMedPartners

BioMedPartners is a leading independent European venture capital firm, providing private equity and mezzanine financing to early- to mid-stage healthcare and life science companies. Since 2003, BioMedPartners has invested in more than 30 highly innovative companies, of which four have already either successfully completed an IPO (Arpida AG, Santhera Pharmaceuticals AG) or have been acquired by leading pharma companies (Glycart Biotechnology AG, Thommen Medical AG). Recently, BioMedPartners has announced the first closing of its second BioMedInvest Fund with an initial capital of CHF 95 million. With more than CHF 250 million in capital under management and a strong team of experienced specialists and industry experts as well as an extensive scientific and financial network, BioMedPartners has established itself as one of the leading early-stage healthcare investors in Europe.

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