

Press Release

BIOMEDPARTNERS JOIN FIRST CLOSING OF CHF 28 MILLION SERIES B FINANCING ROUND OF EVOLVA SA

Basel, Switzerland, 22nd October 2009

BioMedPartners AG in Basel announced today that they have joined, through their new **BioMedInvest-II LP** fund, a CHF 28 million first closing of a Series B financing round of **Evolva SA**, a Swiss headquartered international biotech company. The financing round is led by current investor Aravis and new investors Auriga Partners, Vinci Capital - Renaissance PME and Wellington Partners. BioMedInvest and an undisclosed private investor participated as co-investors in the first closing, as well as Evolva's existing investors Astellas Venture, Dansk Innovation, Novartis Bioventures and Sunstone Capital.

"We and the other investors are impressed by Evolva's innovative technology, the interesting compounds pipeline and its international business model," commented **Dr. Markus Hosang** representing **BioMedInvest-II LP**. "We have confidence in the great potential of Evolva's approach and consequently have decided to invest in the company."

The first closing is part of Evolva's preparations to merge with Swiss biotech company Arpida, though the funds are committed independently of the proposed merger. Evolva continues discussions with other investors and intends to raise further funding in a second closing subject to approval of the merger by Arpida shareholders. The Series B funding will allow the combined company to progress its clinical compounds through phase II proof-of-concept trials over the next 2-3 years, in particular EV-077 (cardio-renal indications), EV-086 (anti-fungal) and EV-075 (antiviral).

Neil Goldsmith, Managing Director & CEO, said: "We are pleased that we have succeeded in attracting new high quality investors and that we have received further support from our existing ones. This clearly signals backing from our investor community for the intended merger with Arpida."

About Evolva

Evolva uses its genetic chemistry platform to replicate, on an industrial basis, the ability of nature to create small molecules with exquisite “design”. Based on this technology, Evolva has a number of discovery and pre-clinical partnerships which in 2008 generated revenues of about CHF 12 million. Evolva also has an attractive pipeline of drug candidates deriving from this approach - one compound (for renal and cardiovascular diseases) entered Phase I beginning of 2009, and two others (an anti-fungal and an anti-viral) are expected to enter Phase I in 2010. For more information see www.evolva.com

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About BioMedPartners

A leading Swiss healthcare-dedicated venture capital firm with more than CHF 240 million under management that provides private equity (BioMedInvest) and mezzanine financing (BioMedCredit) to early-stage private companies and spin-offs in the biotechnology, emerging pharmaceutical, medical technology and other healthcare-related industries with a geographic focus on investments in Switzerland, Germany and neighboring Western Europe. For more information see www.biomedvc.com

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