

Media Release

Swiss Venture Valuation wins contract from European Investment Bank (EIB)

Zurich based Venture Valuation AG has won a tender from the European Investment Bank for a survey of European biotechnology companies. The study should help the EIB to identify potential candidates that may qualify for a debt or debt equivalent financing. The goal is to strengthen the European Biotech sector and help in creating large European Biotechnology companies.

Zurich, October 2005 – The European Investment Bank (EIB) has awarded Venture Valuation a contract to screen and identify European Life Sciences and Biotech companies qualifying for debt financing by the bank. Venture Valuation will conduct this screening and help EIB to identify suitable debt financing models. The contract has been awarded to Venture Valuation along with its partners Target BioScience AG and icb capital AG. A key criteria which led to the nomination of Venture Valuation and its partners by the EIB was the Biotechgate Company Database (www.biotechgate.com), an extended company directory of European companies in the biotechnology and life sciences field. Current featured countries include Austria (www.austrianbiotech.com), France (www.frenchbiotech.com), Italy (www.italianbiotech.com) and Switzerland (www.swisslifesciences.com). These databases were developed and are run and maintained by Venture Valuation. Together with Target BioScience, Venture Valuation has done a similar project in the past, helping a major US Biotech company identifying European licensing and acquisition opportunities in Europe. icb innovation capital AG has profound knowledge in generating innovative financing instruments for life sciences companies.

About European Investment Bank

The task of the European Investment Bank, the European Union's financing institution, is to contribute towards the integration, balanced development and economic and social cohesion of the member countries. To this end, it raises on the markets substantial volumes of funds which it directs on the most favourable terms towards financing capital projects according with the objectives of the Union. Per end of 2004, the EIB had a Balance sheet total of EUR 257,8 billion and net profit of some EUR 1,4 billion. EIB is also the majority shareholder in the European Investment Fund (EIF).

About Venture Valuation

Venture Valuation specializes in independent, third party assessment, valuation and monitoring of emerging high growth companies in industries such as biotechnology, med-tech and high-tech. Services are provided in the form of proprietary software (www.venformis.com) and independent Valuation Reports to entrepreneurs (seed to pre-IPO) and investors. With offices in Switzerland, Germany, Canada and South Korea, Venture Valuation has an experienced team of scientists and business professionals with expertise in finance, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and high technology industries. Further more, Venture Valuation has initiated, maintains and further develops the Biotech and Life Sciences Databases Biotechgate (www.biotechgate.com).

About Target BioScience AG

Target BioScience AG is a consulting firm focused exclusively on pharma and biotech. Services are provided for strategic management, mainly business development, and for medical/marketing support, such as prescription event monitoring surveys. Target BioScience does also provide services for the marketing authorization application of pharmaceuticals and can act as the applicant for those companies having no or not yet a subsidiary in Switzerland (www.targetbio.ch).

About icb innovation capital, Zug Switzerland

icb provides corporate finance services and invests in life science and medtech via ineo, a private investment company in Zug. (www.icbcapital.com)