

VitamFero, a Genopole® accredited company, closes its initial round of financing with venture capitalists

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Evry, France, February 22nd, 2011

VitamFero¹ (Genopole®² – Evry, France), an early-stage biotech developer of new anti-parasitic vaccines at its labs housed in French INRA/University Research Unit UMR 483 for Immunology, Parasitology and Vaccinology at the University François-Rabelais of Tours (France), just finalized significant fund-raising of 1.1 million Euros with CapDecisif Management³ and G1J Ile-de-France⁴.

Over the next two years, that investment will allow VitamFero to develop its products in accordance with its Business Plan and to strengthen its patent portfolio ahead of another round of financing planned for 2013.

Pascal Breton, CEO of VitamFero, stated, *“Adding to the contributions of the founders and a group of Business Angels in 2009, VitamFero, with the support of CapDecisif Management and G1J Ile-de-France, has just crossed a major milestone in its development. That new financial partnership is recognition of the scientific and commercial value of the firm’s project. Having already benefited from over 2 million Euros in grants and refundable aid, as of 2008, we had reached an agreement with an industrial partner - one of the main global players in veterinary health - that allows us to plan today for the launch of our first anti-toxoplasmosis vaccine as of 2013.”*

In due course, VitamFero is seeking a major position in the attractive and lucrative vaccine market.

¹ Established in October 2005, **VitamFero** (www.vitamfero.com), a Genopole® accredited company, exploits important innovations developed and jointly patented by the CNRS (French National Scientific Research Center), the INRA (French National Agricultural Research Institute) and University François-Rabelais of Tours (France) in the field of anti-parasitic vaccines, where needs remain very widely unmet. VitamFero has a platform based on solid, perfectly-validated science, founded on development of live parasitic strains (*Toxoplasma gondii*) that have been attenuated by targeted, total deletion of virulence genes.

² **Genopole**® (www.genopole.fr) is the leading French biopark dedicated to research in genetics and biotech for healthcare and the environment. It brings together 21 academic laboratories, 67 biotech companies and university teaching facilities. The biopark’s objectives are to promote research in genomics, post-genomics & related sciences, transfer technology to industry, develop high-level life science teaching & training and foster the creation and growth of biotech companies.

³ **CapDecisif Management** (www.capdecisif.com) is an investment management firm registered with the French securities regulator, the AMF. CapDecisif Management manages three venture capital funds whose role is to invest in early-stage innovation firms of high potential. CapDecisif Management that is notably supported by CDC Entreprises, the Région Ile-de-France and Groupe Natexis, has 28 companies in its portfolio in Information Technology, Life Sciences and Clean Tech.

⁴ **G1J Ile-de-France** is a pre-seed fund with 7 million €. The fund aims at supporting innovative startup companies in the field of Life Sciences and Biotechnology. Since 1999, G1J Ile-de-France, created under the auspices of Genopole® with the support of the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, has invested in 33 companies. Since 2010, the management of the portfolio is conducted by CapDecisif Management.

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