

## **/ Actelion founder Thomas Widmann new Venture Partner at Wellington /**

Munich, May 26, 2003. With Dr. Thomas Widmann, Wellington Partners has gained one of Europe's most noteworthy biotech entrepreneurs as a new Venture Partner for the Life Science team. Widmann was a member of the team that founded Actelion in December 1997, and served as the company's first CEO. Swiss-based Actelion numbers among the very few European start-ups that already have an internationally approved therapeutic. "We highly appreciate that the successful collaboration we have enjoyed in the past through our partnership with Dr. Widmann is now being continued at a new level," stresses Wellington Partner Dr. Rainer Strohmenger, referring to Wellington's pre-IPO investment in Actelion.

Actelion, which has been listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange since April 2000 (SWX: ATLN), has focused on active ingredient research and development right from the very beginning. And in less than five years, the company was able to bring Tracleer®, a therapeutic that combats pulmonary hypertension, to market in the United States and Europe. Actelion today employs a staff of more than 550 people in 16 locations worldwide, generating revenues of SFR 140 million in 2002. By next year, Actelion is expected to number among the select circle of profitably operating European biotech companies.

As a Venture Partner, Actelion founder Widmann is supporting Wellington's portfolio companies in the Life Science sector with his entrepreneurial and scientific know-how. At the same time, he is also playing an active role in selecting new investments. "My objective is to pass on my experience in building a new pharmaceuticals company to founders," explains Widmann. "Often enough, what are actually very good technologies nevertheless fail due to mistakes made early on in implementing them." Strohmenger adds: "First-class management is the key to success for every start-up, including those in the biotech sector. Actelion is the best example of this in Europe. This is why Dr. Widmann's support in building and coaching management teams for our portfolio companies will be invaluable."

### **About Wellington Partners**

Formed in 1991, Wellington Partners invests venture capital in young start-ups throughout Europe in the fields of information and communication technology and life science and numbers among Europe's most successful early-stage financiers. The Wellington Partners I fund has already returned 1.7 times its subscribed capital. The Munich-based company today manages a total fund volume of € 265 million, with € 60 million of this funding available for new investments.

To this day Wellington Partners has invested in over 70 companies. Serving as the lead or co-investor, the company has already accompanied such successful technology vendors as Chipbroker ACG or biotech player Actelion in going public and sold e.g. WLAN AG to Swisscom and the German auctioneer Alando to eBay. Further information: [www.wellington.de](http://www.wellington.de)

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