

First closing of Wellington Partners III Life Science Fund

Munich, January 23, 2007. At the occasion of the first closing of the Wellington Partners Ventures III Life Science Fund, investors from Germany, the Benelux countries, the UK, the US and the Middle East have committed the first € 50 million. Among the investors are the European Investment Fund (EIF), Bear Stearns, Credit Suisse, Merifin Capital, the Messerschmitt Foundation, the National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC) of Kuwait as well as large family offices and private investors from Germany.

After the successful first closing Wellington Partners expects to complete the Wellington Partners III Life Science Fund by summer with a volume of € 120 million. Wellington partner Rolf Christof Dienst comments: "The interest of well-known European, American and Mid East investors in life science is clearly increasing. They recognize the huge potential of European biotech companies and are looking for ways to participate in those companies."

The Wellington Partners III Life Science Fund will invest in those areas that promise the biggest profit potential: innovative therapeutics, medical technology and diagnostics. In all three areas, Wellington Partners has already financed outstanding European life science companies like Actelion (Switzerland), Wavelight (Germany) or NoemaLife (Italy) in the predecessor funds Wellington Partners I and Wellington Partners II and took them public. The new investments are the responsibility of a team led by four general partners: Wellington founder Rolf Christof Dienst, Dr. Rainer Strohmenger, as well as the former BASF pharmaceuticals board member Prof. Dr. Erich Schlick and Actelion co-founder Dr. Thomas Widmann. For Strohmenger, one thing is clear: "The high quality, innovative strength and relatively low valuation of European biotech companies now offer an ideal environment to invest in."

About Wellington Partners:

Wellington Partners (www.wellington-partners.com), formed in 1991, ranks among Europe's most successful early-stage investors. With € 500 million currently under management, the firm focuses on helping European entrepreneurs build companies with large global market opportunities, mostly in the areas of information technology, media convergence and life science.

To date, Wellington Partners has invested in over 85 companies, selling a third of them at a profit, in eight cases through an IPO. Serving as the lead or co-lead investor, Wellington Partners has already accompanied such successful start-ups as biotech company Actelion or openBC (XING) in their IPOs, and sold, among others, Grandis Biotech to Novartis, and the German auctioneer Alando to eBay.

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