

Mérieux Equity Partners announces the acquisition of a minority stake in Swixx BioPharma, the leading and fastest-growing commercialization partner for Biotech & Pharmaceutical companies in Central & Eastern Europe

Paris, France – May 28th, 2021 – Mérieux Equity Partners (Growth & Buyout Team) is pleased to announce that Mérieux Participations 4 fund (MP4) concluded an agreement with Swixx BioPharma historical shareholders and current shareholder HBM Healthcare Investments to enter the capital of Swixx BioPharma. The transaction is organized as a two-step primary and secondary investment and aims to accelerate the company's growth in its core markets and abroad.

Founded in Switzerland (Baar) in 2014 by Petr Němec and Stuart Swanson, Swixx BioPharma is a specialized distributor of rare diseases, Rx and OTC medicinal products in Central & Eastern Europe, and acts as a true commercialization partner for Biotech & Pharma companies in this area. It aims to fully replace its partners capabilities in countries that multinationals choose not to enter, or to exit. With 600 employees, Swixx BioPharma is the largest agent for ethical pharmaceuticals serving research-based biopharma in CEE and has experienced exceptional growth over the last few years, from less than €50m in Revenues in 2017 to €230m in net sales in 2020. Its clients include some Big Pharma such as Bristol-Myers Squibb, Amgen, or Alexion, some fast-growing Biotech like Seattle Genetics, Y-mabs, Sarepta or Jazz Pharmaceuticals as well as other Pharma companies (UPSA, Vifor Pharma, HRA Pharma, etc.).

Mérieux Equity Partners and the Management share the ambition to accelerate the Company's portfolio expansion of specialty products for the treatment of rare diseases and pathologies that are major public health issues in CEE, and strengthen its geographical coverage.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome Mérieux Equity Partners" commented Swixx co-founder Michael Seeley. "We are honored that such a well-regarded healthcare fund as MxEP has seen fit to invest in Swixx. The Mérieux family's long history of scientific innovation speaks for itself, and we feel privileged to be associated with such a partner." Jean-Michel Lespinasse, CEO, adds "It's my hope that Swixx, bolstered with this new infusion of €45m cumulatively in growth capital, will be able to access even more new opportunities in acquisitions, licensing, and portfolio expansion. We look forward to work together with Benoît and his team".

Benoît Chastaing, Managing Partner at Mérieux Equity Partners, said: *"We are very impressed by the Management team and founders of Swixx, who have an outstanding track record, and have demonstrated their ability to build a market leader in a few years. We are honored that Swixx has placed its trust in Mérieux Equity Partners and we now look forward to contribute through our network and expertise, together with HBM, to the Company's success."*

The investment in Swixx BioPharma represents the first transaction made by Mérieux Participations 4 fund (MP4) – announced in Q1 2021, MP4 is Mérieux Equity Partners latest Growth & Buyout investment vehicle, targeting size of €500m.

About Swixx Biopharma AG - www.swixxbiopharma.com

Swixx operates fully owned subsidiaries across Central and Eastern Europe, Greece, and Russia. With 600 employees and sales exceeding €260 million in 2021, Swixx has swiftly evolved into the largest and fastest-growing dedicated commercialization platform for biopharma and self-medication innovative companies in CEE. The Company has gathered outstanding rare disease, oncology-hematology, specialty, and self-medication talent under one roof.

About Mérieux Equity Partners - www.merieux-partners.com

Mérieux Equity Partners ("MxEP") is an AMF-accredited management company dedicated to equity investments in the health and nutrition sector. MxEP actively supports entrepreneurs and companies with differentiated products and services, giving them privileged access to its sector expertise and international network. MxEP currently manages over €1 billion in assets and has just launched its fifth vehicle - dedicated to growth capital/LBO investments - with a target size of €500 million.

About HBM Healthcare Investments - www.hbmhealthcare.com

HBM Healthcare Investments actively invests in the human medicine, biotechnology, medical technology and diagnostics sectors and related areas. The company holds and manages an international portfolio of promising companies. Many of these companies have their lead products already available on the market or at an advanced stage of development. The portfolio companies are closely tracked and actively guided on their strategic directions. HBM Healthcare Investments has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker: HBMN).

List of Participants

- **Swixx Biopharma:** Stuart Swanson, Petr Nemec, Jean-Michel Lespinasse, Petr Pipal
- **Mérieux Equity Partners:** Benoit Chastaing, Benoit Pierret, Marie-Justine Lecomte, Guillaume Martignoni
- **HBM Healthcare Investments:** Matthias Fehr, Alexander Asam

Buy-Side

- Financial Advisor: **Rothschild & Co** (Robert Rozemulder, Alexis Ludwig, Alexandre Azan-Soulié)
- Legal Advisor: **Baker McKenzie** (Alexander Fischer, François-Xavier Naime)
- Commercial Due Diligence: **KPMG** (Frederic Thomas, Vincent Vludes)
- Financial & Tax Due Diligence: **KPMG** (Vincent Delmas, Amaury Dubois, Mathieu Gauthier, Alison Pollet)

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