

Capricorn Venture Partners leads financing round at c-LEcta and lays foundation for further corporate growth

Leuven, Belgium: 4 September 2018 – Capricorn Venture Partners has lead a round of growth financing at c-LEcta, a leading biotechnology company focused on enzyme engineering and applications in regulated markets like food and pharma. The German investment company Beteiligungsmanagement Thüringen – bm|t – joined the equity round through its recent MFT Mittelstands-Fonds. The capital increase provides the company with growth capital as well as valuable access to an international network.

c-LEcta is a fully integrated biotechnology company based in Leipzig, Germany, with focus on enzyme engineering and application in regulated markets like food and pharma. c-LEcta currently employs around 60 people. The company is well diversified and covers a large part of the value chain from discovery to engineering to the commercial production of enzymes as well as the manufacturing of other high-quality biotechnology products, either as in-house developments or in close cooperation with the industry. Over the last five years, c-LEcta has conducted more than 30 enzyme engineering projects with a success rate of >90%. Only a few weeks ago, the company announced a major breakthrough as the first company to develop a process to enable the mass-production of a plant-based sweetener with a real sugar-like taste. In addition, two further food ingredient products with high market potential are in an advanced development stage and the project pipeline comprises several promising candidates addressing the multi-billion-euro food ingredients market. This growth financing is intended to raise c-LEcta to a new level and elevate the focused food ingredients from the project pipeline to commercial scale production.

Mr. Ludwig Goris, Investment Manager of Capricorn, commented on the investment in c-LEcta: “We see that global mega trends and challenges in human nutrition are paving the way for industrial biotech companies like c-LEcta. Since its foundation, c-LEcta has built up a remarkable track record of technology and product development and has been able to validate that through a growing customer base of leading pharma, chemical and food ingredient companies. In addition, we were impressed by the highly qualified team in Leipzig. Founder and CEO Dr Marc Struhalla and his motivated team have created a great company that has arrived at an attractive inflection point where the current product pipeline forms the foundation for an accelerated growth curve. We are proud to lead this growth capital round and contribute to the success of c-LEcta.”

Capricorn Venture Partners, as independent, internationally oriented investment company has a track record of investing in innovative, technology driven companies and has a multidisciplinary team of experienced investment professionals. Capricorn invested through two funds, namely the Capricorn Sustainable Chemistry Fund NV and Quest for Growth NV. The German investment company bm|t invests in high-growth technology companies led by entrepreneurial teams. bm|t invested via the MFT Mittelstands-Fonds Thüringen GmbH & Co. KG. These new funds will be dedicated to the approval, launch and scale-up of products from the project pipeline, further development of the pipeline as well as the expansion of international sales. The two new investors expand the group of shareholders, which previously included the following investors: SHS Gesellschaft für Beteiligungsmanagement mbH, High-Tech Gründerfonds Management GmbH, KfW Bankengruppe, Dr Marc Struhalla, Warning Beteiligungs GmbH, Dr Bader Beteiligungs GmbH, and Arthur Steinmetz Beteiligungs GmbH.

CEO Dr Marc Struhalla commented on c-LEcta’s core technology and the capital increase: “The performance requirements for enzymes to be applied in industrial processes are in most cases very specific and vary from naturally occurring variations. Enzymes therefore need to be adapted to industrial conditions via enzyme engineering, and c-LEcta owns one of the most efficient technology platforms in this area. For enzyme optimization as well as for the development of artificial enzyme activities, we use patent-protected strategies that are inspired by nature. The industrial application

of these technologies holds great market potential. The financial strength and valuable international network that we have gained through this financing round now offers us the opportunity to develop the full potential of our technology and people. With Capricorn Venture Partners and bm|t, we get two active investors on board that can contribute substantially to our international growth ambitions.”

About Capricorn Venture Partners:

Capricorn Venture Partners, founded in 1993, is an independent European manager of venture capital and equity funds, investing in innovative companies with technology as competitive advantage. It is currently managing its Capricorn Sustainable Chemistry Fund, Capricorn ICT Arkiv Fund, Capricorn Health-tech Fund and Capricorn Cleantech Fund, is the management company of Quest for Growth, quoted on Euronext Brussels, and investment manager to the Quest Cleantech and Quest+ funds. It is based in Leuven, Belgium and licensed by the FSMA (the Financial Services and Markets Authority in Belgium). www.capricorn.be

About bm|t:

Erfurt-based, bm|t beteiligungsmanagement thüringen gmbh (bm|t) is the largest growth investor in the federal state of Thuringia, Germany. bm|t invests in innovative companies with strong growth potential across all sectors and phases of the corporate lifecycle.

About c-LEcta

c-LEcta is a fully integrated world-leading biotechnology company with focus on enzyme engineering and application in regulated markets like food and pharma. The company is located in Leipzig, Germany, and has established itself as a leading player in the realization of high-value biotech products, either in the form of in-house developments or in close cooperation with industry. The company currently employs around 60 people.

c-LEcta delivers cost-efficient and sustainable production processes which open new markets and allow for better penetration of existing markets. The company is characterized by fast and efficient development of best-in-class biotech solutions and a rapid and successful market introduction and commercialization of the resulting products. This enables c-LEcta to leverage the unique potential of its core technologies. c-LEcta has a proven track record of more than 10 successfully commercialized high-value industrial biotech products.
