



Press release

TWB and AURIGA IV *Bioseeds* partners to support the creation of industrial biotech companies

Toulouse, 3 October, 2016 - Toulouse White Biotechnology (TWB), a pre-industrial demonstrator, and AURIGA IV *Bioseeds*, a professional investment capital fund managed by AURIGA *Partners*, a technology venture capital firm and member of the TWB consortium, are initiating a partnership to ensure a prosperous future for TWB's research projects and the companies resulting from them. The aim is to reinforce, through the investments of the AURIGA IV *Bioseeds* fund, the support provided to TWB's innovative research projects, to ensure their sustainability and to optimize their valorization, in particular through company formation.

TWB's mission is to simplify and accelerate collaborations between the public and private sectors in the field of R&D in biotechnology and industrialization of bioprocesses (renewable carbon). For that purpose, TWB implemented an original model by providing its partners with the scientific and technological skills they lack in order to carry out ambitious and value-creating projects. The collaborations are regulated by tailor-made contracts defining simple and clear working and intellectual property rules between the different parties. TWB is backed by a public-private consortium which associates to date forty-five members, public organizations, companies, and investment companies.

AURIGA IV *Bioseeds*, a seed fund supported by the National Seed Capital Fund of the Program "Investing for the future" and by the European Investment Fund, aims to contribute to the creation of spin-off companies from academic research of excellence in the fields of infectiology and microbiology in France. It is worth more than 40 million euros, which will make it possible to invest in more than fifteen young high-tech companies and enable them to reach the industrial proof stage. AURIGA IV *Bioseeds* relies on various institutional and industrial partners. With its expertise in industrial biotechnology, TWB reinforces in particular that of the Pasteur Institute and of the Technology Research Institute Bioaster. These partnerships enable AURIGA *Partners* to interact with pools of very promising innovative projects with high development potential, like that of TWB.

Bringing these two actors together, their complementarity and the resulting synergy, will benefit both academic research projects and the development of the ensuing start-ups, by offering them an additional chance of success right from their creation, while reinforcing the respective activities of TWB and AURIGA IV *Bioseeds*.

AURIGA *Partners*, a member of the TWB consortium, has furthermore already invested with AURIGA IV *Bioseeds* in EnobraQ, the first company created based on the results of a TWB research project, as well as in Amoeba, a company which has benefited from TWB's expertise within the framework of an industrial cooperation contract.

The TWB and AURIGA IV *Bioseeds* partnership is in line with a strong commitment to contributing to the bioeconomy development through the creation of start-ups and, consequently, of employment opportunities.

About TWB:

Toulouse White Biotechnology (TWB) is a preindustrial demonstrator whose goal is to speed up the development of industrial biotechnologies by facilitating exchanges between public research and industry. Its vocation is to contribute to the expansion of a bioeconomy based on the use of renewable carbon in various fields (chemistry-biochemistry, materials, energy, etc.). Various kinds of collaborative research and development projects are proposed, as well as personalized services for businesses. TWB relies on the scientific expertise of public research laboratories, in particular the LISBP (Toulouse).

In March 2011, TWB was awarded the call for project for the Investments for the Future Program (PIA – Programme Investissements d’Avenir). It receives State aid through the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche - National Research Agency). TWB is a UMS (Unité Mixte de Service – Mixed Service Unit) managed by INRA under triple INRA/INSA/CNRS tutelage.

With more than €18 M of contracts since its creation, TWB confirms the relevance of its role at the interface of the public/private transfer.

More information: www.toulouse-white-biotechnology.com/

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About AURIGA IV *Bioseeds*:

AURIGA IV *Bioseeds* is a seed fund, worth more than €40 M, supported by the Public Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund. The fund accompanies technology companies developed based on the knowledge and know-how in infectiology and microbiology.

AURIGA IV *Bioseeds* is managed by AURIGA *Partners*, a French independent technological innovation capital firm based in Paris. The company manages various funds, for a total amount of approximately €400 M. It invests its own funds in projects with very high potential, accompanying innovation to the market, from their creation to their international business development, in the fields of life sciences and information technologies.

More information: <http://www.auriga.vc/>

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