

THE PRE-INDUSTRIAL DEMONSTRATOR MIMABS CREATES A SERVICE COMPANY SPECIALIZING IN THERAPEUTIC ANTIBODIES

- Carried by Aix-Marseille University (AMU), MImAbs is the first pre-industrial demonstrator of the Investments for the Future Program (PIA)
- Within three months, MImAbs SAS completed a 2-million-euro financing round led by Région Sud Investissement and entrepreneurs of the region.
- To generate new therapeutic antibody candidates, biopharmaceutical companies and start-ups will be able to rely on an integrated platform of preclinical services in immunotechnology that is unique in Europe.

Marseille, February 8th 2021, MImAbs SAS, Aix-Marseille University (AMU) and Région Sud Investissement (RSI) announce the start of operations of MImAbs SAS, an immunotechnology company specializing in the generation and validation of novel therapeutic antibodies against cancer and inflammatory diseases. The creation of this new company marks the success of the eponymous pre-industrial demonstrator launched in 2011 with the support of the Investments for the Future Program: in less than seven years of activity, the collaborative program will have conducted over 20 projects for the development of therapeutic antibodies, a field of excellence in the region.

Dr. Thierry JEAN, a leader in the biopharmaceutical services industry, is the Chairman and CEO of the company whose Scientific Direction is ensured by Pr. François ROMAGNÉ, until now Director of the pre-industrial demonstrator. In the difficult context of the COVID-19 pandemic, MImAbs SAS has completed in three months a €2 million financing round led by Région Sud Investissement and associating economic actors and entrepreneurs of the region.

Pr. Eric BERTON, President of Aix-Marseille University, said: *“We are proud to have contributed to an innovative pre-industrial demonstrator, carried by AMU and financed by the Investments for the Future Program, creating an autonomous economic player. In Europe, MImAbs will act as a catalyst, not only for industrials but also for recently funded start-ups that increasingly rely on external R&D capabilities. Once again, AMU and its partners are reinforcing the development of the regional economic fabric, especially in a very strategic sector of excellence such as immunology”.*

Pilot of the creation project and member of the Strategic Council of MImAbs SAS, **Dr. Hervé BRAILLY, multi-entrepreneur of the biotech industry, co-founder of Innate Pharma and of the Marseille-Immunopôle (MI) cluster**, underlined: *“I am very pleased to have contributed to the transformation of the collaborative platform into a commercial company with 25 employees. The development potential of MImAbs SAS is unquestioned: it will be a major player in terms of attractiveness and influence for the region’s therapeutic antibody sector, led by MI and supported by the Eurobiomed competitiveness cluster. I would like to thank AMU for its support and assistance in the creation of the company, Région Sud Investissement and Turenne Capital for their commitment and of course, the pre-industrial demonstrator’s team, without whom this transformation would not have been possible”.*

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*“Advances in medicine and biotechnologies have led to a hyper-specialization of drug research and development and prompted more and more biopharmaceutical companies to outsource all or part of the process. The founders of MImAbs anticipated this fundamental trend by creating a platform capable of accelerating and securing the first R&D steps in the leading family of cancer therapies: monoclonal antibodies” said **Dr. Thierry JEAN, Co-founder and Chairman and CEO of MImAbs SAS.** “Today, our company offers manufacturers an integrated platform of preclinical services in immunotechnology that is unique in Europe, to which highly innovative start-ups will also have full access for their early development through strategic partnerships”.*

About MI-MABS SAS

MI-MABS is a preclinical services company specializing in the generation, optimization and validation of novel therapeutic antibodies against cancer and inflammatory diseases. Unique in Europe, its integrated immunotechnology services platform concentrates all the expertise and know-how required to convert a new therapeutic target into a drug candidate. Primarily intended for biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, this platform is also accessible in its entirety to highly innovative start-ups through strategic collaboration agreements.

Located in the heart of the French immunology cluster Marseille Immunopôle, MImAbs is managed by Dr. Thierry JEAN and Pr. François ROMAGNÉ, respectively Chairman and CEO, and Scientific Director of the company. It is supported by a team of 25 scientists and a high-tech building with a surface area of 1,500m². MImAbs has already successfully conducted over 20 development projects and established scientific and technological partnerships with leaders in academia and industry.

More information at www.mimabs.org and @MI_mAbs

About Aix Marseille Université

Aix-Marseille Université (AMU) is the largest French-speaking university in the world, hosting 80,000 students and nearly 8,000 staff. The university owns its architectural heritage. It has 5 large campuses meeting international standards, and is spread over 9 major cities in 4 French departments.

Its University Foundation A*Midex, which supports the IDEX, contributes to the development of a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary centre of world-class higher education and research. Known as an "intensive research university", the university boasts 113 research units linked to the major national organizations.

AMU places interdisciplinarity at the heart of its strategy and training programmes. It has set up Interdisciplinary and Intersectoral Research Poles (PR2I), Territorial Innovation Poles (PIT), and access for economic actors to labelled technological platforms. The Aix-Marseille City of Innovation and Knowledge (CISAM) and 15 institutes strengthen the ties between research and education. A responsible and committed university, Aix-Marseille Université encourages the values of living together in harmony and makes its anti-discrimination and CSR policy a priority – something for which it has been distinguished in international rankings.

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Widely open to the world since its creation (10,000 international students and more than 40 diplomas in international partnership), the university has been awarded the European Commission's call for projects to build "CIVIS, a European Civic University" with 8 European partners, contributing to the major societal challenges facing Africa and the Mediterranean in particular.

About "Région Sud Investissement"

Région Sud Investissement is the regional co-investment fund created in 2010 by the South Region to support the emergence and development of regional growth companies.

The fund is one of the 13 tools of the FIER (Investment Fund for Enterprises of the Region) and embodies the new dynamic that the SOUTH Region wishes to build with companies.

Région Sud Investissement, with a long-term endowment of €120M, benefits from European support through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for 42% of its capacity. Région Sud Investissement is advised by the Turenne Capital Group for the management of its investments and has also set up an equity loan activity for regional VSE/SMEs. Since July 2011, Région Sud Investissement has invested in 102 regional companies for a total amount of €54.2M.

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