

Paris, May 23, 2006

Weinberg Capital Partners makes its first investment

WCP takes a majority stake in Pharma Omnum International to finance the acquisition of Laboratoires Biodim

Weinberg Capital Partners announces it has signed an agreement with Frédéric Champavere and Philippe Padelou, founders of Pharma Omnum International, to acquire 70% of the laboratory specialized in mature pharmaceutical products.

Pharma Omnum's capital increase allows it to achieve a significant step in its development with the acquisition of Laboratoires Biodim, which owns such pharmaceutical specialties as Témesta, Séresta and Utéplex. Biodim posted 2005 sales of 43.7 million euros.

Pharma Omnum International aims to commercialise mature pharmaceutical products of high quality and notoriety that no longer benefit from sustained promotional efforts.

Pharma Omnum's project is in line with governmental efforts to encourage the prescription of mature medicines when, notably in certain sensitive therapeutic classes, recourse to more costly specialties is not always justified.

Pharma Omnum is also active in two other fields: nutraceuticals (Vital Omnum) and dermatology (Derma Omnum). Pharma Omnum intends to pursue its development through new acquisitions of laboratories or molecules.

This transaction marks the first investment of Weinberg Capital Partners, which manages an investment fund of 420 million euros, since its creation in July 2005. The transaction fits its strategy of investing in mid-sized European companies with unexploited development potential, capitalizing on Weinberg Capital Partners' dual industrial and financial expertise.

Weinberg Capital Partners was advised on this transaction by the Sarrau Thomas Couderc law firm. Pharma Omnum was advised by Grant Thornton Corporate Finance and by the CMS-Francis Lefebvre law firm.

Weinberg Capital Partners is a private equity firm created by Serge Weinberg, the former chairman of the management board of PPR, and his three partners, Guillaume d'Angerville, Henri Gagnaire and Philippe Klocanas. Its 420 million euro private equity fund WCP#1 aims to accompany the development of mid-sized European companies, principally in France and Southern Europe, in all sectors except new technologies.

Pharma-Omnium International is a pharmaceutical company created by Frédéric Champavere, former president of Janssen-Cilag and Lilly in France, and his partner, Philippe Padelou, former president of Madaus in France. Through its subsidiary Derma-Omnium, Pharma-Omnium International already acquired JCD, specialized in dermo-esthetics, in January 2006.

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