



## **SIRS-Lab successfully raises EURO 10M new equity capital to introduce its first sepsis diagnostic tests to the market**

**Jena/Geneva/Erfurt, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2006** SIRS-Lab, the innovation leader in molecular diagnostics for life threatening infections announced today that it has successfully raised EURO 10 million new equity capital led by Affentranger Associates alongside with bm-t Beteiligungsmanagement Thüringen and Swiss institutional investors. The company will use the funds to bring new molecular diagnostics to the market to enable fast identification and simple monitoring of sepsis often a deadly disease.

As of today sepsis - also called blood poisoning - is the second most frequent cause of death in hospitals after cardio-vascular diseases. With about two million cases worldwide out of which approximately 50% die, sepsis remains one of the greatest and least publicly recognized challenges of the clinical medicine. SIRS-Lab is one of the pioneers that recognized the importance to identify very early the occurrence of sepsis as well as to monitor the evolution of the disease. The objective of the company is to dramatically improve the survival chances of the patients by providing to the clinicians with simple and non invasive tests to initiate efficacious therapeutic treatments rapidly.

“Our financial investment and hands-on involvement in SIRS-Lab reflect our conviction in the strong added value of the tests developed by the company” said Nicolas Fulpius, Partner at Affentranger Associates “The fast democratization of the molecular diagnostic technologies combined with a high unmet medical need in sepsis, positions SIRS-Lab ideally to become one of the leading players in the multi-billion market of diagnostics for severe infections.”

SIRS-Lab has developed its highly innovative diagnostic programs in cooperation with the University Hospital Jena. Together, they have build up over years a worldwide unique bio-bank with clinical samples from hundreds of sepsis patients. Recently, SIRS-Lab has announced to have identified for the first time a robust and specific gene expression signature for sepsis that will serve as basis for one family of new diagnostic products. In addition, the company will leverage its unique and protected Pureprove<sup>®</sup> technology to bring fast and highly sensitive pathogen tests to the market.

“With substantial new capital, SIRS-Lab is now ready to bring its first set of sepsis tests to the market very shortly” said Stefan Russwurm, CEO of SIRS-Lab “The combination of the scientific expertise of SIRS-Lab with the experience of Affentranger Associates in the development of high-growth companies will enable SIRS-Lab to reach the next level in terms of value creation.”

As result of this investment, Affentranger Associates and Beteiligungsmanagement Thüringen will be joining the Board of the Company.

### **About SIRS-Lab GmbH**

Located in Jena (Germany), SIRS-Lab is a privately held diagnostic company developing unique and innovative products to identify and monitor life-threatening infections, one of the major causes of death in hospitals across the world. SIRS-Lab's vision is to support clinicians in their bedside decisions by providing them with fast and reliable high-performance point of care systems and thus, to improve therapeutic impact and reduce the mortality rate of patients.

Founded in 2000 by S. Russwurm, K. Reinhart, E. Straube and H.-P. Saluz, SIRS-Lab employs today 25 people. The company has raised in the past EURO 15M in form of private investments and



public grants. SIRS-Lab already commercializes Looxster<sup>®</sup>, a sample preparation that isolates bacterial DNA from human DNA as well as gene-expression services and products (LabArraytor<sup>®</sup>).

#### **About Affentranger Associates SA**

Incorporated in 2002, Affentranger Associates is a Switzerland based business platform focused on the theme of value creation and active management. As principal investor, the company has the ambition to achieve sustainable long-term returns by investing a combination of management and capital in high-growth potential companies. Affentranger Associates has offices in Geneva and Zurich.

#### **About bm-t Beteiligungsmanagement Thüringen**

The bm-t, a daughter company of the Thüringer Aufbaubank, acts as the management company of four Thüringen dedicated investment funds, the TI - Thüringer Innovationsfonds, VCT - Venture Capital Thüringen, TIB - Thüringer Industriebeteiligungs and the PET - Private Equity Thüringen. As of today, the bm-t manages a portfolio of more than 40 companies located in Thüringen (Germany) for a total of more than EURO 130M under management.

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