

Media Release

Italian Biotech Database Launched

With the release of the Italian Biotech Database, Venture Valuation launches another European country database in the biotech and life sciences field. This company directory of Italy's life sciences sector is available free of charge at www.italianbiotech.com as it is sponsored by InvestInItaly.

Zurich, November 2004 – The internet-based “Italian Biotech Database” is available free of charge for inquiries and for obtaining a brief profile of each organization. In addition to biotech companies, the database includes medtech and life sciences companies and organizations as well as investors specializing in these fields. All data is categorized according to sector, subsector and additional criteria so that systematic searches can be carried out. The database currently comprises more than 200 profiles, which are updated on a regular basis. New companies can be entered at any time free of charge. Companies that are already included can very easily modify their data.

The Italian Biotech Database was launched at the Italian Biotech Roadshow, which took place in Zurich on November 22, 2004. InvestInItaly, a governmental organization and the main sponsor of the Italian Biotech Database, promoted a spectrum of business opportunities offered by the Italian life sciences and biotech industry at this event ranging from partnering, sciences cooperation to investment opportunities. In addition to Berna Biotech and Novartis Italy, a number of leading Italian biotech companies were present.

The database was created and is maintained by Zurich-based Venture Valuation, which focuses on independent valuations of companies in the life sciences industry. In March 2003, Venture Valuation launched the Swiss Life Sciences Database, a comprehensive platform with more than 1000 profiles of companies active in the Swiss biotech industry. Due to the big success of this first database (available at www.swisslifesciences.com), Venture Valuation decided to expand the online platform which now includes France (www.frenchbiotech.com), Austria (www.austrianbiotech.com) and a European database combining the data of the four live countries (www.biotechgate.com). Negotiations are ongoing with various biotech associations, development agencies, governments and cluster organizations in Europe to explore opportunities for further expansion.

For further information, please contact:

Venture Valuation AG

Patrik Frei, CEO

patrik.frei@venturevaluation.ch

Badenerstrasse 18
8004 Zurich

Tel. +41 (43) 321 86 60

Fax +41 (43) 321 86 61

www.venturevaluation.com