



AaviGen raises 5 million € in first financing round to launch development of precision gene therapies for heart failure

Heidelberg, Germany - December 22, 2020 – AaviGen GmbH, a preclinical stage biotechnology company focused on the development of curative gene therapies for cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary diseases, today announced the completion of its initiating 5 million € first financing round. The fundraising adds DH-LT Investments GmbH, an investment company owned and led by SAP co-founder Dietmar Hopp, to AaviGen’s shareholders. The proceeds of the financing will enable the development of precision gene therapies for heart failure, a highly prevalent disease affecting 26 million people worldwide. AaviGen was advised by Mayer Brown LLP, under the lead of Dr. Jan Streer, on the legal aspects of the fundraising.

AaviGen’s lead program employs heart-specific recombinant adeno-associated viruses to bring therapeutic genes with unprecedented ease, safety, precision, and personalization to the diseased heart via a single intravenous injection. In executing its program, AaviGen builds on the expertise and track record of its founders and leadership team as well as the experience and commitment of its investor: “Despite the steadily growing prevalence of heart failure, there are essentially no curative therapies available targeting the molecular causes of the disease. AaviGen aspires to address this critical unmet need with a highly innovative vector engineering technology and gene therapy platform. AaviGen’s new program builds on our experience gained in our late-stage preclinical biotechnology company InoCard”, commented Prof. Patrick Most, co-founder, CEO and Managing Director of AaviGen. “The AaviGen team has proven expertise in advancing scientific innovations in healthcare. I am excited to support AaviGen in launching its development program”, said Dietmar Hopp.

About AaviGen

AaviGen was founded in 2019 on the understanding that successful gene therapy requires optimized delivery of therapeutic targets to the diseased heart. AaviGen’s scientific approach is documented in numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications and validated by its founders’ track record in scientific innovations for the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac diseases, including gene therapy medicinal products. For more information, please see: www.aavigen.com

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AaviGen's Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains statements that constitute “forward looking statements” as that term is defined in the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including statements that express the company’s opinions, expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or projections of the company regarding future events or future results, in contrast with statements that reflect historical facts. Examples include discussion of the company’s strategies, financing plans, growth opportunities and market growth. In some cases, you can identify such forward-looking statements by terminology such as “anticipate,” “intend,” “believe,” “estimate,” “plan,” “seek,” “project,” or “expect,” “may,” “will,” “would,” “could,” “potential,” “intend,” or “should,” the negative of these terms or similar expressions. Forward looking statements are based on management’s current beliefs and assumptions and on information currently available to the company. However, these forward-looking statements are not a guarantee of the company’s performance, and you should not place undue reliance on such statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to many risks, uncertainties and other variable circumstances, including negative worldwide economic conditions and ongoing instability and volatility in the worldwide financial markets, ability to obtain funding, ability to conduct current and future preclinical studies and clinical trials, the timing, expense and uncertainty of regulatory approval, reliance on third parties and collaboration partners, ability to commercialize products, ability to manufacture any products, possible changes in current and proposed legislation, regulations and governmental policies, pressures from increasing competition and consolidation in the company’s industry, ability to manage growth, reliance on key personnel, reliance on intellectual property protection, ability to provide for patient safety, and fluctuations of operating results due to the effect of exchange rates or other factors. Such risks and uncertainties may cause the statements to be inaccurate and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements. Many of these risks are outside of the company’s control and could cause its actual results to differ materially from those it thought would occur. The forward-looking statements included in this press release are made only as of the date hereof. The company does not undertake, and specifically declines, any obligation to update any such statements or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any such statements to reflect future events or developments, except as required by law.