

Press release

Brightlands Venture Partners closes € 45M sustainability and health fund

GELEEN, Netherlands – April 15th, 2021

Brightlands Venture Partners, a leading Dutch sustainability & health venture capital firm based in the south of the Netherlands, announces the first closing of its BVP Fund IV at € 45 million. This Fund IV capital raise allows Brightlands Venture Partners to increase its investing activities in renewable chemistry, regenerative medicine and agrifood. Four cornerstone investors, DSM Nederland, provincie Limburg, LIOF and Rabo Corporate Investments have joined BVP in the first closing. In addition, € 10 million has been committed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) for investments in the renewable chemistry space.

Positive impact

With its new fund, Brightlands Venture Partners will invest in startups and scaleups in the Netherlands, Belgium and North Rhine Westphalia, that will benefit from and contribute to the Brightlands ecosystem. To date, Brightlands Venture Partners has invested in some 40 companies developing innovative products and processes that address unmet needs in the areas of sustainability and health. The financial return so far is excellent, which demonstrates the positive impact of the Brightlands ecosystem on the chance of success and time to market for these innovative companies.

Reduction of carbon footprint & healthier living

In sustainability BVP demonstrated its strength by investing in Europe's leading recycling companies QC Polymers (mechanical recycling of commodity plastics), Ioniqa Technologies (chemical upcycling of PET), Black Bear Carbon and Fuenix (pyrolysis of used tyres and of mixed plastic waste). In health, important innovations have been made by e.g. Neuroplast (treatment of paraplegia), Triplemed (aortic aneurysmas) and Matisse Pharmaceuticals (sepsis).

Casper Bruens, Managing Partner of Brightlands Venture Partners, commented: "We are delighted with the continued commitment of DSM, provincie Limburg, LIOF and Rabobank and are extremely pleased with the € 10 mln commitment of RVO. This first closing is a firm basis; the fund will be open to additional professional investors who want to join us to make more impact. Brightlands means renewable chemistry, regenerative medicine, agrifood and related digital technologies, areas where such impact is most needed."

About Brightlands Venture Partners

Brightlands Venture Partners (BVP) is the fund manager of BVP Fund IV and is a so-called ecosystem investor. BVP invests in companies benefiting from and contributing to the Brightlands campuses in the south of the Netherlands. Other funds under management are Chemelot Ventures, Brightlands Agrifood Fund and Limburg Ventures. BVP Fund IV focuses on sustainability and health and is the successor fund of the 2014 vintage Chemelot Ventures; together the funds have made 40 investments. BVP has realized exits to blue chip companies such as Lonza, LyondellBasell, BASF and Fresenius. More information can be found at www.brightlandsventurepartners.com.

About LIOF

LIOF is the regional development agency for Limburg and supports innovative entrepreneurs with advice, network and financing. LIOF is available for every start-up, scaleup and small and medium-sized business (SME) with an innovative idea, a business plan or a financing request and for (foreign) entrepreneurs who want to establish themselves in Limburg. LIOF also helps with cross-border cooperation and international trade. Together with entrepreneurs and partners, LIOF is working towards a smarter, more sustainable and healthier Limburg by focusing on the transitions of energy, circularity, health and digitalization. More information can be found at www.liof.nl/en.

About DSM – Bright Science. Brighter Living.™

Royal DSM is a global, purpose-led, science-based company active in Nutrition, Health and Sustainable Living. DSM's purpose is to create brighter lives for all. DSM addresses with its products and solutions some of the world's biggest challenges while simultaneously creating economic, environmental and societal value for all its stakeholders – customers, employees, shareholders, and society at large. DSM delivers innovative solutions for human nutrition, animal nutrition, personal care and aroma, medical devices, green products and applications, and new mobility and connectivity. DSM and its associated companies deliver annual net sales of about € 10 billion with approximately 23,000 employees. The company was founded in 1902 and is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. More information can be found at www.dsm.com.

About Rabo Corporate Investments

Rabo Corporate Investments is Rabobank's investment franchise. It has invested over €1.4 billion worldwide within the cutting-edge Food & Agri, Sustainability, and Healthcare sectors in the Netherlands and within the Food & Agri sector worldwide. These investments range from growth capital for innovative start-ups and scale-ups to (co)investments in established companies and funds.

<https://rabocorporateinvestments.com>.

About RVO

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) stimulates entrepreneurs in sustainable, agricultural, innovative and international business. It does so through information and advice, financing, finding business partners and complying with laws and regulations. RVO is a government agency which operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. Its activities are commissioned by the various ministries and the European Union. With the Seed Capital scheme, the Dutch government supports innovative technical and creative start-ups in obtaining venture capital by providing an interest-free loan to investment funds.

For more information about RVO and the Seed Capital scheme, please contact Pierre Wimmers on +31 (0)6 25420076 or pierre.wimmers1@rvo.nl.