

PRESS RELEASE
5th of September 2024

Jean-Guillaume Lafay, Former CEO of Mablink (Acquired by Eli Lilly), Joins Mérieux Equity Partners Innovation Team as Operating Partner

Lyon, September 4th, 2024 – Mérieux Equity Partners is proud to announce the appointment of Jean-Guillaume Lafay as Operating Partner, building on the ongoing development of the firm's innovation activity. With over 30 years of entrepreneurial experience and more than 15 years in healthcare, Jean-Guillaume brings invaluable expertise in the fields of therapeutic platforms and life science.

Jean-Guillaume (48) notably co-founded Mablink in 2018 and served as CEO. Mérieux Equity Partners was an early investor in Mablink and remained a shareholder until it was sold to Eli Lilly in 2023, marking one of the best exits in the French healthcare space that year. Mablink's platform has a unique ability to enable the design of highly-loaded best-in-class ADCs, thanks to a new proprietary linker and masking agent that improved the benefit-risk ratio for patients fighting cancer. In addition to Mablink, Jean-Guillaume founded four other companies focused on healthcare innovation.

In parallel to his operational roles, Jean-Guillaume has been investing in innovation for more than 20 years. He is currently a board member of various startups, including Allogentica (since 2022), Agatha Life (since 2023) and recently Axoltis Pharma (since 2024).

At Mérieux Equity Partners, Jean-Guillaume will play a pivotal role in supporting our portfolio companies in areas such as leadership/governance, HR, quality, traceability, processes, and more. He will also be a key contributor to the investment process of the Innovation funds managed by Mérieux Equity Partners.

Since the launch of OMX Europe (vintage 2020, 117m€), the innovation team has completed 15 investments in early stage healthcare companies, including Mablink, Acusurgical (robotic platform for retinal surgery), SeqOne (bio-informatic platform allowing for accurate diagnostic of rare genetic mutations), CellEasy (CDMO producing cell therapies), Cairdac (world's first autonomous leadless endoscopically implanted pacemaker). OMX Europe already completed 2 exits, including Mablink.

Jean-Guillaume holds a Master's degree in Organic Synthesis and Bioactive Molecules Chemistry.

"We are thrilled to have Jean-Guillaume Lafay join our team. We met back in 2019, and I have always been impressed by his charisma, energy and human values. The fact that he decided to join Mérieux Equity Partners as an Operating Partner after his recent success with Mablink is a great testimony to our mutual trust and shared values. We have a high ambition for our Innovation activity, as we embark a new fundraising, and Jean-Guillaume Lafay will be key in helping us achieve these goals," said Valérie Calenda, Managing Partner – Innovation at Mérieux Equity Partners.

"I worked closely with Valérie and her team during my time as CEO of Mablink. I experienced how they collaborate with entrepreneurs on a day-to-day basis, supporting their portfolio companies with professionalism, transparency, and human values. I am excited to join the team and bring my passion

and experience to support other entrepreneurs. The French and European entrepreneurial ecosystem in healthcare is remarkable, and I am eager to contribute to its growth,” said Jean-Guillaume Lafay.

This appointment marks a significant step in Mérieux Equity Partners commitment to strengthening its leadership team with industry experts who possess a profound understanding of the healthcare sector.

For more information, please contact:

CTCom (France): Sibylle Descamps / sibylle.descamps@ct-com.com
Laure Schlagdenhauben / laure.schlagdenhauben@ct-com.com

MHP (UK/International): James McFarlane / james.mcfarlane@mhpgroup.com
Matthew Taylor / matthew.taylor@mhpgroup.com

About Mérieux Equity Partners :

Mérieux Equity Partners ('MxEP') is an AMF-accredited investment firm specialising in the healthcare sector. With over €1.5 billion in assets under management through two dedicated strategies: Innovation and Buyout, MxEP supports companies ranging from start-ups to established leaders.

Based in Lyon and Paris, with a strong industrial footprint, MxEP's team of healthcare specialists and investment professionals invests in European companies with significant growth and transformation potential. By providing financial and operational resources, MxEP enables businesses to achieve their goals and create value from innovative healthcare products and services which improve patient outcomes.

For more information, please visit www.merieux-partners.com