PRESS RELEASE

SRTD Biotech raises a €31.5 million seed round to develop next-generation precision mRNA therapeutics

The financing was led by Mérieux Equity Partners, and co-led by NRW.BANK and Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund, alongside Lilly Ventures and HTGF

Jülich, Germany – November 9, 2026 – SRTD Biotech ("SRTD"), a leading biotechnology company focused on developing next-generation precision mRNA therapeutics, today announces the successful completion of an oversubscribed €31.5 million seed financing round. The financing was led by Mérieux Equity Partners, with NRW.BANK and Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund joining the syndicate as co-leads. Lilly Ventures, HTGF, and the Freiburg-based family Office Anobis Asset also participated in the seed round. The new capital will fund the preclinical development of SRTD's pipeline of novel targeted RNA therapies across oncology, autoimmune and fibrosis indications towards Investigational New Drug ("IND").

Co-founded by its Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Bernd Hoffmann in 2019 and headquartered in Jülich, Germany, SRTD has developed a groundbreaking approach to cell-specific messenger RNA (mRNA) expression using intracellular RNA disease markers that activate the mRNA expression exclusively within target cells. These selectively expressed RNA (seRNA) constructs enable the controlled expression of therapeutic payloads within diseased cells, while minimizing exposure in healthy tissue. With this novel approach, SRTD plans to create safer, more effective and differentiated RNA therapies that overcome limitations associated with non-selective mRNA expression and the constraints of targeting proteins on the cell surface.

SRTD is an integrated RNA therapeutics company combining three technology platforms: its proprietary seRNA technology, a novel fusogenic LNP delivery platform to access liver, lung, brain and other organs, and a synthetic biology platform with bioinformatics and AI-driven RNA design capabilities. This integrated technology platform provides an end-to-end solution for the generation of differentiated RNA therapies in a wide range of therapeutic areas and indications.

SRTD Expands Management Team

Following the financing round, Matthias Alder was appointed Chief Executive Officer of SRTD, bringing extensive leadership experience, strategic vision and his network in the biotechnology sector. He has held senior C-suite roles (including CEO, COO and CBO) at publicly traded biotech companies in the US and Europe, while also leading and executing more than $10 billion of biotechnology transactions over the course of his career. This experience will be instrumental in advancing the SRTD seRNA platform towards clinical development.

Together with Matthias Alder, Dr. Heinz Koeppl joined SRTD's leadership team as the company's Chief Technology Officer and the founder of SRTD's synthetic biology platform. He is also a professor at the Technische Universität Darmstadt and the director of its Centre for Synthetic Biology. Together with Dr. Hoffmann, Dr. Koeppl will lead the scientific strategy of SRTD, with a

particular focus on RNA marker identification and AI-based construct optimization to ensure the selective and efficient activation of seRNA constructs.

Most recently, Dr. Jens Hennecke joined the executive leadership team of SRTD as its Chief Business Officer. Dr. Hennecke has more than 25 years of track record in executing outbound and inbound licensing deals and M&A transactions. He will drive business development and strategy of the company, seeking to leverage the company's platform through R&D collaborations in therapeutic areas and indications beyond SRTD's own product pipeline.

Mr. Alder commented: "We thank all our investors for joining this exceptional syndicate in one of the largest biotech seed financings in Europe to date. We are especially grateful to Mérieux Equity Partners for their vision, conviction, and unwavering support in building SRTD into an integrated RNA therapeutics company and establishing the differentiated platform that has attracted the participation of two leading global pharmaceutical companies in this financing. The proceeds will enable SRTD to advance Bernd's vision of delivering safe, effective, and differentiated RNA therapeutics to patients whose diseases remain inadequately addressed by current therapies."

Kristin Thompson, Director at Mérieux Equity Partners, said: "We believe SRTD Biotech has the potential to redefine what is possible with mRNA therapeutics. Its highly differentiated technology addresses one of the key challenges facing the field today: achieving precise, selective therapeutic activity while limiting effects on healthy cells. Having worked closely with the company to strengthen its strategy, build its leadership team and establish a scalable platform, we are delighted to lead this financing with our Mérieux Innovation 2 fund (MI2) alongside an exceptional group of investors. We look forward to supporting Matthias and the team as they advance a new generation of targeted therapies for patients with significant unmet medical needs."

Johanna Antonie Tjaden-Schulte, Member of NRW.BANK's Managing Board, adds: "SRTD Biotech shows how cutting-edge research from North Rhine-Westphalia can open up new ways to treat many diseases with significant unmet medical needs. Bringing innovations like these from research into medical practice takes capital. With our investment in SRTD Biotech, we are helping a highly innovative company develop a promising new technology in NRW and scale it internationally from here."

NRW.BANK is participating in SRTD Biotech's financing round through its NRW.Venture EU Tech&Scale fund. Under its InvestEU partnership, a guarantee agreement with the European Commission enables NRW.BANK to invest a total of up to €200 million in additional funding in young scale-ups through the fund.

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About SRTD Biotech – www.srtd-biotech.com
SRTD Biotech ("SRTD") was founded in Jülich by Dr Bernd Hoffmann and Dr Heribert Bohlen. The aim of the biotech start-up is to develop highly efficient RNA-based drugs based on a proprietary platform technology. The team consists of experts in molecular biology, cell biology, chemistry, translational sciences and business development.

About Mérieux Equity Partners - www.merieux-partners.com
Founded in 2009, Mérieux Equity Partners ("MxEP") is a leading European healthcare-specialized investment firm, with two dedicated platforms, Venture Capital and Buyout, supporting companies ranging from start-ups to established leaders. Benefiting from a longstanding expertise and a large network, MxEP invests in companies with ambitious growth projects and transformative products or services in healthcare. MxEP is AMF-accredited and currently manages €2bn of AuM.

About NRW.BANK – www.nrwbank.de/en/
NRW.BANK is the promotional bank of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). In close partnership with its owner, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Bank helps to strengthen SMEs and start-ups, create affordable housing and improve public infrastructure. NRW.BANK offers people, enterprises and local authorities in NRW tailor-made financing solutions and advisory services. It cooperates with its financing partners, in particular all banks and savings banks, on a competition-neutral basis.. In order to accelerate the transformation processes, the Bank provides effective promotional impulses – for a sustainable, climate-neutral and digital North Rhine-Westphalia.

InvestEU

The InvestEU programme(Link opens in a new window) provides the European Union with crucial long-term funding by leveraging substantial private and public funds in support of a sustainable recovery. It also helps mobilise private investments for the European Union's policy priorities, such as the European Green Deal and the digital transition. The InvestEU programme brings together under one roof the multitude of EU financial instruments currently available to support investment in the European Union, making funding for investment projects in Europe simpler, more efficient and more flexible. The programme consists of three components: the InvestEU Fund, the InvestEU Advisory Hub and the InvestEU Portal. The InvestEU Fund is implemented through financial partners that will invest in projects using the EU budget guarantee of 26.2 billion euros. The entire budget guarantee will back the investment projects of the implementing partners, increase their risk-bearing capacity and thus mobilise at least 372 billion euros in additional investment.

About Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund

The Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF), established in 2010, is dedicated to investing in groundbreaking biotechnology companies that are at the forefront of therapeutic and digital innovations. Our focus is on nurturing disease-modifying therapeutic concepts and facilitating their clinical application. We prioritize the translation of first-in-class concepts that address significant medical needs in fields such as oncology, immunology, regenerative medicine, neurodegeneration, infectious diseases, and digital health technologies.

With a fund volume of EUR 350 million, BIVF operates as an evergreen fund, continually reinvesting to fuel its mission. Our partners gain from the fund's deep expertise in drug discovery & development, translational science, and management, along with access to a network of experts within the Boehringer Ingelheim organization. Currently, BIVF supports a diverse portfolio of over 40 companies, leveraging our extensive experience to drive progress in healthcare.

For additional information, please visit boehringer-ingelheim-venture.com.

About HTGF - High-Tech Gründerfonds

Germany and Europe need a New Wirtschaftswunder, we are laying the foundations. We are Germany's most active VC investor, funding deep-tech, life sciences and digital tech companies that secure technological sovereignty and build industrial strength. From the initial idea through to international scaling, we support bold founders as a multi-stage VC platform – seamlessly, reliably and for the long term.
350 active start-ups, 200+ exits and 5 unicorns. Over €10 billion in follow-on funding mobilised. Together with DTCF, we represent more than €3 billion in fund volume – and turn German and European innovations into global tech champions.

More information at HTGF.de or on LinkedIn.