

## **Press Release**

**Zug, 14 April 2011**

### **Trade sale of Mpex Pharmaceuticals**

Mpex Pharmaceuticals Inc., a privately-held company in which HBM BioVentures has invested a total of USD 13.4 million, is being acquired by Axcan Pharma Inc., another private company. Axcan will pay the purchase price in cash. A guaranteed portion thereof is payable in instalments up to 2014, while the remainder is contingent on certain licensing and sales milestones for the Mpex compound Aeroquin™ (MP-376), a newly formulated antibiotic. Axcan will assume all of the costs of the continued clinical development of Aeroquin for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (phase III and registration). The remaining assets will be spun out into a new company that will be owned by the original Mpex shareholders. The sale of Mpex will increase HBM BioVentures' net asset value by CHF 0.30 per share.

Mpex Pharmaceuticals is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to develop important new therapies to combat the growing issue of antibiotic resistance. Mpex's most advanced product candidate, Aeroquin™ (MP-376), is a proprietary aerosol formulation of levofloxacin that is currently in Phase 3 clinical trials for the treatment of pulmonary infections in patients who suffer from cystic fibrosis. The Company is working on a number of additional antibiotic programs designed to address antibiotic resistance in gram-negative organisms, a part of these programs including a collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline focus on developing drug candidates utilizing Mpex's Efflux Pump Inhibitor (EPI) technology. These remaining assets will be spun out into a new company that will be owned by the original Mpex shareholders. For further information on Mpex Pharmaceuticals please visit [www.mpexpharma.com](http://www.mpexpharma.com).

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### **HBM BioVentures Ltd**

HBM BioVentures is invested globally in some 30 mature emerging companies in the biotechnology/human medicine, diagnostics and medical technology sectors. The lead products of many companies in HBM BioVentures' portfolio are either at an advanced stage of development or already available on the market. The investment focus currently is on follow-on financings for private companies in the portfolio that offer high value-creation potential. This makes HBM BioVentures an interesting alternative to investments in big pharma and biotech companies. HBM BioVentures has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker: HBMN). Visit [www.hbmbioventures.com](http://www.hbmbioventures.com).

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