

Sirion Biotech

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Sirion Biotech may look for additional partnerships from 2011; trade sale likely exit option in two years, MD says

Sirion Biotech (Sirion), the privately held German biotech company, may look for additional partnerships from 2011, managing director Lars Behrend said. The first step is to strengthen the current partnerships increasing the aspect of co-development, he explained, and later find additional partners, possibly from 2011.

Interesting partners should be active in the fields of cell biology, molecular agents and reproducing cells, Behrend said. He added that some talks with potential partners also from outside Germany have already taken place.

Sirion has at the moment two partnerships, with **Sigma Aldrich** and with **Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen** (Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt). Due to the first cooperation, Sirion can use the lentivirus libraries MISSION TRC-1 or TRC-2 from Sigma Aldrich to produce cell pools. The cooperation with the Helmholtz Zentrum started in March 2010 is for the investigation of novel lenti-virus based cancer therapies.

A trade sale appears to be a likely exit option but only in about two years' time, Behrend said, adding that the company first wants to exploit its potential. An IPO is not ruled out but looks less likely, he said, adding however that there are no detailed plans at the moment.

Besides the two founders Lars Behrend and Christian Thirion, Sirion's investors are Bayern Kapital, Creathor Venture and High-Tech Gründerfonds (HTGF).

Sirion employs currently 13 people but the number will increase to support the planned expansion, Behrend said. The company expects to employ 25 people by the end of 2011/beginning of 2012 and to reach about 50 in the medium term. He mentioned that they are currently looking to recruit people mainly for the R&D department.

Sirion is a biotechnology company that provides tools and services for functional gene analysis. The company's key competencies are RNA interference and adenoviral vector technology. Sirion's RNA interference technology Q-tech allows transfection-free shRNA-mediated RNA interference.

Sirion was founded in 2006 and is based in Martinsried near Munich (Southern Germany).

Source: Wealthmonitor