



PRESS RELEASE

Biocartis receives € 1.4M grant for development of innovative liquid biopsy tests

Mechelen, Belgium, 27 October 2015: Biocartis (Euronext Brussels: **BCART**), an innovative molecular diagnostics company, announces that it has received a € 1.4M grant from the Flemish Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT). Biocartis will use this grant to support the research and development of liquid biopsy versions of its solid tumour biopsy BRAF and KRAS diagnostic tests for melanoma and colorectal cancer, as well as research towards improved liquid biopsy methodologies.

Research over the last few years has shown that fragments of tumour DNA are shed into the blood from primary tumours or metastatic sites. This observation has led to the development of liquid biopsy tests, which are non-invasive tests and research tools used for detecting these circulating tumour DNA fragments in bodily fluids (such as blood plasma or urine). Contrary to solid biopsy tests - which require prior information of the location of the tumour and an invasive tissue sampling procedure - liquid biopsy tests can be done repetitively and at any moment. This can potentially enable the frequent generation of clinically relevant molecular information, which can be used for better monitoring of the response and relapse of the tumour.

This grant is received as part of a collaboration project called 'Early Diagnosis by Easy Sampling' that is subsidised by IWT, in which Biocartis will partner with PharmaFluidics (spin-off of the VUB - University of Brussels), Research Institute for Chromatography (RIC), Antwerp University Hospital (UZA) and VITO (Flemish Institute for Technological Research). Unique to this project is the analysis of not only freely circulating tumour DNA, but also other cell components in blood that potentially contain cancer-specific genetic information, useful for molecular diagnostic testing. With its involvement, IWT affirms its belief in multidisciplinary partnerships that bring cutting-edge innovation in Flanders.

Erwin Sablon, Head of R&D at Biocartis, stated: *"This is a highly innovative project with a diverse and multidisciplinary group of partners, consisting of academics, research organisations and commercial parties that together offer a unique expertise in the field of research and analysis of blood plasma. This co-operation will enable science to move beyond existing techniques in order to develop state-of-the-art early diagnosis technology for cancer detection."*

Rudi Pauwels, CEO of Biocartis, added: *"Contrary to the currently more cumbersome, time-consuming and costly methods where tumour biopsy tissue is used, liquid biopsy technology has the potential to offer huge diagnostic and treatment benefits. It allows easy and detailed capturing of molecular tumour information that may lead to tailored, more efficient and cost-effective high precision medicine solutions. These serve society with an improved healthcare outcome, at an affordable price and compatible with sustainable healthcare."*

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About Biocartis

Biocartis (Euronext Brussels: BCART) is an innovative molecular diagnostics (MDx) company providing next generation diagnostic solutions aimed at improving clinical practice for the benefit of patients, clinicians, payers and industry. Biocartis' proprietary MDx Idylla™ platform is a fully automated sample-to-result, real-time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) system that offers accurate, highly reliable molecular information from virtually any biological sample in virtually any setting. Idylla™ addresses the growing demand for personalized medicine by allowing fast and effective treatment selection and treatment progress monitoring. Biocartis launched the Idylla™ platform commercially in September 2014 together with its first assay to identify BRAF Mutations in metastatic melanoma. Its second assay, a KRAS Mutation panel for colorectal cancer, was launched in June 2015. Biocartis is developing and marketing a rapidly expanding test menu addressing key unmet clinical needs in oncology and infectious diseases. These areas represent respectively the fastest growing and largest segments of the MDx market worldwide. Further information can be found at: www.biocartis.com.