



Press Release  
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## NH TherAguix, a start-up specializing in nanomedicine for cancer radiotherapy, announces a €13 million round of fundraising, led by Bpifrance

**Grenoble/Lyon/Paris (France) – 11 April 2019** – NH TherAguix announces the closing of its €13 million Series A round led by Bpifrance, through its InnoBio 2 fund, making its first investment, alongside Supernova Invest, a previous investor, and Omnes and Arbevel, new entrants.

NH TherAguix produces and develops its drug candidate AGuIX, for the treatment of solid cancers, with the potential to increase the survival rate of cancer patients, as well as their quality of life when it is combined with radiotherapy.

Founded in December 2015, and backed by Pulsalys, the technology transfer acceleration company from Lyon Saint-Etienne, NH TherAguix originates a nanomedicine innovation, the AGuIX drug candidate. This product, thanks to its nanometric structure, allows an IV administration and combines three essential attributes to fight tumours: targeting, imaging and treatment. The AGuIX technology is therefore part of the theranostics concept, which relates to a combination of therapy (radiosensitizing effect) and diagnostics (MRI imaging), and more widely in the personalized medicine of tomorrow.

Due to its biodistribution and its mechanism of action, AGuIX nanomedicine has a broad spectrum of activity towards solid tumours, 60% of which are treated by radiotherapy. This feature, coupled with a robust manufacturing process outsourced to Sanofi and Carbogen, should help develop an ambitious clinical strategy.

A Phase 1 trial tested AGuIX for post-injection tolerance, MRI contrast enhancement, and early evidence of radiosensitization in combination with standard radiotherapy protocol on patients with brain metastases. AGuIX is entering Phase 2 on the same indication in a multicentric trial involving one hundred patients (University Hospital of Grenoble, Dr. Camille Verry, radiation oncologist). Another Phase 1 trial for advanced cervical cancer is being carried out at the Gustave Roussy Institute in Villejuif (92) (Prof. Cyrus Chargari, radiation oncologist).

**Géraldine Le Duc, Co-founder and CEO of NH TherAguix** considers that *"Beyond the additional financial strength of the company, this fundraising will allow NH TherAguix to execute its clinical strategy. It will help the company achieve clinical proof of concept, production scale up, and strengthen its executive team. In addition, I am pleased to associate our project with Hervé Brailly (Innate Pharma), who takes over as our board of directors' chairman. It's the beginning of a new era for the company which is still so young! I thank all the shareholders and collaborators who have supported us during these first three years."*

**Olivier Tillement, Co-founder and CSO of NH TherAguix** says, *"After more than 10 years of research in the lab and exciting academic collaboration, the results from our nanomedicine continue to surprise and stimulate me every day. It's lucky to find investors who share our vision and enthusiasm. We will be able to consolidate our clinical developments and I hope to quickly and efficiently bring AGuIX® to the service of patients."*

"NH TherAguix is, to our knowledge, the first company to develop a radiosensitizing product IV delivered which facilitates its usage and greatly expands its potential indications. We have been impressed by the preliminary human proof of concept in brain metastases and are very excited to support NH TherAguix in the next phases of development for its drug candidate," says **Philippe Boucheron, Deputy Director of Life Sciences Investment at Bpifrance**. "NH Theraguix, Deeptech start-up incubated by Pulsalys, perfectly illustrates the aim of Bpifrance's Deeptech plan; that is, to promote the transfer of technology from laboratories to businesses, where technology transfer acceleration companies (SATTs) are an essential link to success."

**Maximilien Fournier-Sourdille, Principal at Omnes**, says "we were convinced by the agility and scientific soundness of the radio-sensitization approach developed by NH Theraguix. We are pleased to be able to work closely with the entire NH Theraguix team to help them develop products that can have a major impact on patients treated with radiotherapy."

**Marc Le Bozec from Arbevel fund** considers that "NH TherAguix offers great hope to patients and especially those who do not currently have therapeutic solutions. We are proud to invest alongside leading investors and join the journey alongside the founders, who have shown great talent to lead the company at this stage with time limitations."

**Celia Hart, Partner at Supernova Invest** says: "We have been following NH Theraguix for a number of years and have been able to appreciate the tremendous journey to date. We invested during the previous financing round, in 2018, and are delighted to reinvest with leading investors in this new financing round that will allow the company to develop in an ambitious way."

#### **About Bpifrance**

Bpifrance is the French national investment bank: it finances businesses – at every stage of their development – through loans, guarantees, equity investments and export insurances. Bpifrance also provides extrafinancial services (training, consultancy...). to help entrepreneurs meet their challenges (innovation, export...).

For more information, please visit: [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr) and [presse.bpifrance.fr](http://presse.bpifrance.fr) - Follow us on Twitter: @Bpifrance - @BpifrancePresse

#### **About Omnes**

Omnes is a leading Paris-based European investor in private equity and infrastructure. With €3.6 billion of assets under management, Omnes provides SMEs with the capital needed to finance growth. The firm has dedicated investment teams across three key areas: Venture Capital, Buyout & Growth Capital and Infrastructure. With more than 30 trade sales and nearly 15 IPOs in 20 years (including Novaled, Biovex, arGEN-X and Direct Energie), Omnes Venture Capital team is a leading French player in financing innovative SMEs with dual expertise in the deep-tech and healthcare sectors. Its current portfolio includes AB Tasty, BlaBlaCar, Scalify and Sigfox. Omnes is owned by its employees. Omnes is committed to ESG issues and has set up the Omnes Foundation in aid of children's charities. It is also a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). [www.omnescapital.com](http://www.omnescapital.com)



#### **About Arbevel**

Founded in 1997, Financière Arbevel, an entrepreneurial investment management company, has grown significantly since its takeover by the current owners in early 2009 – the AUM progressed from EUR 25m to EUR 1.6bn as of today (of which EUR 732m under the umbrella SICAV "Pluvalca" comprising 9 sub-funds). The company currently employs a total of 34 staff, of which 13 are dedicated to fund management/investment research. Financière Arbevel is recognised for its expertise within the small & mid cap asset class. We are a research-driven organisation with a strong emphasis on fundamental financial and strategic analysis, close relationships with top managements of listed companies (more than 1000 company meetings last year) and a permanent quest for new investment themes offering structural growth opportunities. The digitalisation, fintech, Industry 4.0, or the ageing of the world population are some of our favourite investment themes. We ensure we

are following closely the latest developments within this universe, by participating in various conferences, trade fairs, sector-specific thematic events and by meeting regularly with managements of listed companies. Our small & mid cap DNA is spread across various strategies under the PLUVALCA family of funds with a cross-asset approach comprising our core equity funds, thematic equity funds, fixed income and diversified/flexible allocation funds). In 2015, the Norwegian sovereign wealth fund chose Financière Arbevel to manage its French equity mandate. In 2018, Financière Arbevel pursued its development by launching its first European private equity fund (FPCI form or “Professional private equity investment fund”) with a cross-over approach focused on the non-listed life-science universe, with the idea of accompanying a limited number of biotechnology start-ups in their development. [www.arbevel.com](http://www.arbevel.com)

#### **About Supernova Invest**

Supernova Invest is an independent venture capital firm that has strong relationships with the CEA, one of the world’s leading research organisations and with Amundi, the largest asset manager in Europe. Investments focus on companies developing disruptive innovations operating in the life sciences, energy & environment, industrial, microelectronics and digital sectors. Today, Supernova Invest manages or advises 5 funds totalling 250 million euros and has invested in more than a 100 start ups since 1999. Supernova Invest is based in France. The investment in NH Theraguix was carried out with the fund Supernova 2  
To find out more: [www.supernovainvest.com](http://www.supernovainvest.com)

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