

Launch of Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund by DSM, InnovationQuarter and Capricorn Partners

A new venture fund building a sustainable society through early-stage investments in the Industrial Biotech industry

Today, Capricorn Partners announces the establishment of Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund, a new fund as part of its Cleantech portfolio of funds. The Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund invests in early-stage ventures that are using biotechnology solutions to meet the growing demand for products made in a sustainable way.

Industrial Biotechnology is a key technology for the transformation of society towards Net Zero Carbon and Circularity. This industry will accelerate rapidly in the next decades, driven by recent advancements in bio-engineering, Artificial Intelligence, process technology, and a growing regulatory push for low carbon industry. Industrial Biotechnology will provide sustainable alternatives for food & feed ingredients, chemicals and intermediates, advanced materials and energy.

Industrial Biotechnology is in a technology lifecycle phase that is favorable for early-stage venture investing. Many promising technologies are being developed at universities and technology institutes, with a particularly strong presence in the Benelux and other countries in North-West Europe. Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund invests in early-stage ventures in this industry, and assists them with their growth.

Rob van der Meij, Partner at Capricorn Partners:

“Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund is an excellent addition to our portfolio of Cleantech funds. It targets an industry where we expect strong growth, and where ventures can create significant value. Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund complements our other funds such as the Capricorn Sustainable Chemistry Fund which invests in later stage sustainable technologies”.

Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund is an initiative of DSM (AMS: DSM), InnovationQuarter (the regional development agency of the greater Rotterdam-The Hague area in The Netherlands) and Capricorn Partners. The founding partners aim to establish a fund that will further strengthen the ecosystem around the Biotech Campus Delft and connect it to other centres of excellence in Belgium, France, Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

PRESS RELEASE

1 September 2022

Pieter Wolters, Managing Director DSM Venturing:

“The new fund is a perfect vehicle to further boost the unique knowledge ecosystem on and near the Biotech Campus Delft where solutions to tackle the most pressing challenges in for example the way we produce and consume food are being developed. DSM is happy to be a co-founding investor in the Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund, and we will continue to actively support and foster the scaling up of brilliant biotech inventions, companies and ventures that will sustainably transform health, nutrition and bioscience”.

Liduina Hammer, Head of Investments at InnovationQuarter, stresses the importance of creating a sustainable production industry for the future economy of South Holland:

“We support the transition from fossil to green factories in Zuid-Holland. Initiatives like PlanetB.io at the Biotech Campus in Delft support innovative companies to scale their biotech solutions and realise their impact for society. Through this fund we put extra effort in the most urgent climate and energy transition.”

Capricorn Industrial Biotech Fund is launched following a first close, and will start sourcing deals as of now. Interested investors are invited to join for a final close at a maximum of €25 million.

<<end of press release>>

Contact information

For more information about the fund, contact:

Capricorn Partners
Damien van der Bijl
Investment Director
damien.vanderbijl@capricorn.be

PRESS RELEASE

1 September 2022

About Capricorn Partners

Capricorn Partners is an independent management company for alternative investment funds. We manage a portfolio of Venture and Growth Capital private equity funds and Quoted Equities. All our funds focus on innovative sectors that drive change in today's world, with digital technologies, health and clean technologies as the main investment areas.

Capricorn Partners wants to create both financial return and strategic value for its clients by investing in innovative companies that have a positive impact on people and the planet.

We offer a unique mix of technology and investment expertise, creating an ecosystem where the combination of investable capital, innovative ideas, capable entrepreneurship and business management leads to superior returns.

www.capricorn.be 

About DSM

DSM owns one of the world's leading bioscience hubs, home for many groundbreaking innovations in healthy food and feed ingredients in Delft, and is founding father of the Biotech Campus Delft.

Royal DSM is a global, purpose-led company in Health, Nutrition & Bioscience, applying science to improve the health of people, animals and the planet. DSM's purpose is to create brighter lives for all. DSM's products and solutions address some of the world's biggest challenges while simultaneously creating economic, environmental and societal value for all its stakeholders – customers, employees, shareholders, and society at large. The company was founded in 1902 and is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. More information can be found at www.dsm.com.

Or find us on:    

About InnovationQuarter

InnovationQuarter has € 300 million in funds under management. We are one of the most active investors in The Netherlands. We fund disruptive start-ups & scale-ups that create a cleaner, smarter and healthier world. High risk, but also high impact. We're a patient investor with an extensive network of over 250 co-investor and extensive in-house knowledge on international expansion and innovation. www.innovationquarter.nl

InnovationQuarter invests from four funds: IQCapital, UNIIQ, ENERGIQ and the Energy Transition Fund.

- IQCapital is a fund of €143 million for investments in innovative companies, from start-ups to scale-ups in South Holland.
- UNIIQ is a € 29 million proof-of-concept fund set up by Erasmus MC, TU Delft, Leiden University and InnovationQuarter to bridge the most risky phase from concept to promising company.
- ENERGIQ is a € 35 million fund to finance the commercialization of proven energy innovations that lead to CO2 reduction. The funds come from the Province of South Holland.
- The Energy Transition Fund is a € 100 million fund for sustainable investments from scale-ups and large companies, with the aim of reducing CO2 emissions and raw material use and improving air quality.