



Microphyt raises €28.5 million to develop its portfolio of microalgae-based natural solutions for nutrition and well-being

- Microphyt secures one of the largest fundraising in the microalgae sector;
- The round was co-led by Sofinnova Partners and Bpifrance, through its SPI Fund;
- The funds will allow Microphyt to bring to market its range of natural products for nutrition and well-being and to develop its production capacity and its proprietary microalgae culture technology

Baillargues (France), July 11th, 2019 – Microphyt, a leading company in microalgae-based natural solutions for nutrition and well-being, announced a fundraising of €28.5 million (US\$32 million). This investment was co-led by Sofinnova Partners and Bpifrance, through the “Sociétés de Projets Industriels” fund (“SPI fund”), together with IXO-Private Equity and Sofilaro. The existing investors, Supernova Invest, Demeter Partners and Irdi Soridec, renew their confidence in the company by participating in this new round. The funds will be used to accelerate the development of the product portfolio, to expand sales network globally, as well as to increase production capacity of Microphyt's industrial platform.

In nutrition and wellbeing, consumer demand for natural, effective, safe and sustainably produced solutions is booming. The world market for ingredients for these markets, represents more than US\$ 70 billion with a share of natural ingredients (US\$ 5 billion) that shows the strongest growth (8% per year). Among the natural ingredients, microalgae best meet consumer expectations thanks to their natural diversity, offering richness of molecules that can be produced in a close-controlled and sustainable way.

Since 2009, Microphyt has developed a proprietary production technology that makes it possible to access this diversity while guaranteeing a high level of control and standardization. This patented process, developed in-house, solves the usual drawbacks of microalgae production. It is based on 5,000-litre tubular photobioreactors, which offer both high differentiation potential (access to a new diversity of species) and the ability to supply natural active ingredients in an industrial and standardized way. This technology, operated within an industrial production platform, has already made it possible to establish several commercial partnerships with key players in the sector.

Microphyt has also launched the development of new products that contribute to improving the well-being of the elderly, preventing certain metabolic disorders, facilitating an active lifestyle and protecting the skin from various stresses. A portfolio of 10 nutritional active ingredients and 20 cosmetic active and functional ingredients is being developed. To achieve this, Microphyt will strengthen its team and will significantly increase its ingredient production capacity over the next 18 months.

“This new round is a major milestone in our development and we are pleased that recognized investors in the sector such as Sofinnova Partners and Bpifrance are joining us alongside our existing investors to accelerate our development and internationalization,” said Vincent Usache, CEO of Microphyt. “For several years now, Microphyt was actively committed to unlocking the full potential of microalgae amazing diversity through our unique technology platform. With this funding, we will speed up the development and supply of novel natural products that solve the key challenges of Nutrition & Well-being”.

“Microphyt is exactly the type of company that Sofinnova Partners is looking for as a pioneering investor in industrial biotechnology: thanks to its proprietary technology platform and unique production capacity that allows access to the exceptional biodiversity of microalgae, the company is in an ideal position to become one of the world leaders in natural ingredients dedicated to nutrition and well-being,” says Denis Lucquin, Managing Partner of Sofinnova Partners.

"Microphyt's innovations are also based on an innovative industrial project," explains Jean Philippe Richard, Investment Director of Bpifrance SPI Fund. "We share this ambition to develop a leading industrial production site in France and to create a European leader with a global vocation. The site will offer multi-product production with high added value while implementing environmentally friendly processes.

About Microphyt

Microphyt is a leading company in the production and marketing of microalgae-based natural active ingredients. With more than 10 years of expertise in this field, Microphyt draws from the untapped microalgae diversity to provide unique solutions for Nutrition and Wellness. Microphyt's technologies, developed in-house and patented, allow the controlled production of a wide variety of microalgae on an industrial scale and in a sustainable way. The company has 15 employees and has filed 5 patent families. More information : www.microphyt.eu – Follow us on Twitter: @Microphyt

About Sofinnova Partners

Sofinnova Partners is a leading European venture capital firm specialized in Life Sciences. Based in Paris, France, the firm brings together a team of professionals from all over Europe, the U.S. and China. The firm focuses on paradigm shifting technologies alongside visionary entrepreneurs. Sofinnova Partners invests across the Life Sciences value chain as a lead or cornerstone investor, from very early stage opportunities to late stage/public companies. It has backed nearly 500 companies over more than 45 years, creating market leaders around the globe. Today, Sofinnova Partners has over €2 billion under management. For more information, please visit: www.sofinnovapartners.com

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 - Follow us on Twitter: @Bpifrance - @BpifrancePresse - bpifrance.fr

About iXO Private Equity

Founded in 2003, iXO Private Equity is the leading independent regional private-equity player in France. With assets under management of more than € 700 million, the management company mainly invests in growth capital and transmissions operations. iXO Private Equity invests from € 2 to € 30 million in SMEs based in the Great South of France. Strongly anchored in the heart of these territories, its stable team is made up of 20 people, including 14 investment professionals with complementary skills and experience, among which 4 investment partners dedicated to the different regions covered by iXO Private Equity: Olivier Athanase (Nouvelle Aquitaine), Nicolas Charleux (Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur), Jean-Luc Rivière (Occitanie) and Alexandre Sagon (Auvergne-Rhône Alpes). www.ixope.fr – Twitter : @iXO_PE

About Sofilaro

SOFILARO is the capital investment subsidiary of the Crédit Agricole Regional Banks of Languedoc and Sud Méditerranée. Created in 1983, its goal is to support entrepreneurs in the region in their creation, development or transmission projects, without any sectoral specialization. With 53 companies in the portfolio and 33.5 million euros in equity, SOFILARO is positioning itself as a benchmark player for private equity in the region. SOFILARO is a member of the « Capital Investissement by groupe CA » group, which brings together all of the Crédit Agricole Group's investment companies (€ 3,674 million in assets under management and 977 equity investments).

About Demeter

Demeter (<https://demeter-im.com>) is a major European player in venture capital and private equity for the energy and ecological transition. Its funds invest from €500k to €30m to support companies in the sector at all stages of their development: innovative startups, small and mid-cap companies, as well as infrastructure projects. The Demeter team counts 35 people based in Paris, Grenoble, Metz, Madrid, and Münster and has completed 130 investments over 12 years.

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.

To find out more: www.supernovainvest.com

About Irdi Soridec

Based in Toulouse, Montpellier and Bordeaux, Irdi Soridec Gestion has a track record of investing in companies based in south-western France at all stages of development (venture capital and buyout) for more than 35 years. It manages more than €300m through several funds including SORIDEC, through which it has invested in Microphyt.

For more information: <https://www.irdisoridec.fr/>