

Novo A/S invests in new fund focusing on industrial biotech

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Novo A/S, the holding company in the Novo Group, has invested millions of euros in a new international fund: Sofinnova Industrial Biotech 1 (Sofinnova IB-1). The fund will invest in start-ups, venture, and corporate spin-out companies within industrial biotech in the United States and Europe.

Sofinnova IB 1 will be dedicated to renewable chemistry and will be investing in new companies along the value chain from renewable raw materials, such as agricultural waste or CO₂, to renewable end-products such as bioplastics and other biobased materials as well as technologies arising from advances in synthetic biology and the like. The fund will focus on backing visionary entrepreneurs aiming at developing paradigm-changing innovations from the laboratory to the end-user market. Sofinnova IB 1 will seek to invest in 8–10 companies during the next 3–4 years.

The fund has been established by Sofinnova Partners, a leading European venture capital firm specializing in the life sciences.

Novo Seeds, the early-stage investment arm of Novo A/S has invested more than DKK 100 million (€13 million) in Sofinnova IB 1. This is Novo Seeds' first investment in a fund.

"Part of our strategy is to allocate funds for strengthening venture investments in our strategic areas of interest. We are therefore delighted to contribute to establishing a new fund within industrial biotech. We believe that the team at Sofinnova Partners and the entrepreneurs they invest in will build significant new companies and, hopefully, this will also impact the Nordic industrial biotech industry," says Søren Møller, Managing Partner, Novo Seeds.

"Industrial biotech is an exciting field. We see a growing market demand for innovative, renewable products, and the combination of non-fossil raw materials and novel technologies can contribute to creating innovative, competitive and sustainable products," says Søren Møller.

Several European institutions and major international industrial actors from the energy, chemical and agricultural sectors have also invested in Sofinnova IB-1, which has raised €106 million in the first closing.

Denis Lucquin, Managing Partner, Sofinnova Partners, says: "With establishment of this entirely dedicated fund, we have now reached a further important step in our development in industrial biotech. We are very pleased with the success of this first closing, and the fact that Novo is joining us. We are intending to establish a close

collaboration between our two groups which could give us valuable insights into Scandinavian opportunities in industrial biotech.”

About Sofinnova Partners:

Sofinnova Partners is a leading European venture capital firm specialized in Life Sciences. Based in Paris, France, the firm brings together 12 highly experienced investment professionals from all over Europe, the US and China. The firm focuses on paradigm shifting technologies alongside visionary entrepreneurs. Sofinnova Partners seeks to invest as a founding and lead investor in start-ups and corporate spin-offs, and has backed nearly 500 companies over more than 40 years, creating market leaders around the globe. Today, Sofinnova Partners has over €1.6 billion under management. For more information, please visit: www.sofinnova.fr

About Novo A/S

Novo A/S is a private limited liability company wholly owned by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. The company is the holding company in the Novo Group and responsible for managing the Foundation’s assets. Besides being the major shareholder in the Novo Group companies, Novo A/S provides seed and venture capital to development-stage companies, takes significant ownership positions in well-established companies within the life sciences and manages a broad portfolio of financial assets.

Novo Seeds is part of Novo A/S. Novo Seeds develops new innovative biotechnology companies by collaborating with researchers at universities and early-phase life-science companies in Denmark and the rest of Europe in testing and developing the commercial potential of promising research discoveries. An important ambition is to develop a dynamic and successful biotechnology industry in Denmark and the other Nordic countries. Read more at www.novo.dk

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