



Aravis leads Series B financing in Evolva SA Totalling CHF 44 M (USD 43 M) followed by a reverse merger of Evolva with Arpida Ltd
Evolva Holding SA then Lists on SIX Swiss Exchange

Zurich, Switzerland, December 14, 2009 – Aravis today announced that it has co-led a highly complex transaction involving the second closing of a total Series B financing of CHF 44 M (USD 43 M) in Evolva SA and the reverse merger of Evolva SA with Arpida Ltd. The merged company was listed today on the SIX Swiss Exchange as Evolva Holding SA (SIX: EVE).

“The value-adding model of Aravis’ investment and management support is critical for Swiss companies to remain funded in hostile times and succeed in an international environment,” commented Jean-Philippe Tripet, managing partner and founder of Aravis and vice chairman of the board of Evolva Holding SA. “With this signature deal Aravis is amply demonstrating its ability to actively support companies right from seed financing to the public markets.”

Jean-Philippe Tripet will remain on the board to further support Evolva Holding SA.

Simon Nebel, managing partner of Aravis added:

“It has been a privilege to support such a successful company over the years, especially since we know that part of that success came from the Aravis inspired decision to move the company’s headquarters from Copenhagen to Allschwil. Evolva’s growth within Switzerland owes much to the region’s unmatched pool of significant pharmaceutical companies and rich and talented recruiting environment.”

Aravis first invested in Evolva SA when the fund led a CHF 21.8 M (USD 21.1 M) Series A round in August 2004/5. At that time Aravis was also instrumental in moving Evolva to Allschwil (Basel) in Switzerland. Aravis then went on to lead a second closing of this Series A to the value of CHF 12 M (USD 10.3 M) in December 2006.

About Aravis Venture

Aravis is a Swiss-based venture capital organisation managing two funds focused on life science (Aravis Biotech I & II) and a third fund focused on renewable energy (Aravis Energy I). Since 1995 the Aravis management team have invested over USD 600 million in more than 80 companies.

As well as providing venture capital backing, Aravis also takes a hands-on approach to highly promising companies offering a unique international network that combines decades of experience in science, operations and financing.

With a disciplined investment process and Aravis' hands on approach in supporting management, the companies that Aravis has invested in have shown a comparatively low failure rate and many have grown to become some of the leading companies in their fields.

For more information visit www.aravis.ch

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Notes for editors:

About Evolva Holding SA

Evolva's proprietary discovery technology platform uses a "disruptive" technological approach to the creation of novel small compounds that differs sharply from the prevailing synthetic chemistry and protein engineering approaches in the pharmaceutical industry today. Based on this technology, Evolva has a number of discovery and pre-clinical partnerships which in 2008 generated revenues of about CHF 12 million. Evolva also has an attractive pipeline of compounds - one compound (for renal and cardiovascular diseases) entered Phase I at the beginning of 2009, and two others (an anti-fungal and an anti-viral) are expected to enter Phase I in 2010. Evolva is listed in the main standard of the SIX Swiss Exchange with the ticker EVE. For more information see www.evolva.com.

The original press release from Evolva Holding SA can be found here:
<http://www.evolva.com/news/2009-12-14/>