

Press release

First Chinese pharmaceutical company specialising in traditional medicine comes to Leiden Bio Science Park

Leiden, 18 November 2015 – Today marks the official beginning of a partnership between publically listed Chinese company Jill Zixin Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd and Leiden-based Fytagoras BV. The official reception took place at Hortus Botanicus Leiden with Alderman Damen on-hand to offer congratulations to Mr. Guo Chunsheng, counsellor at Zixin and Mr. Frits Van Horssen, the CEO of Fytagoras BV. Zixin, a Chinese pharmaceutical company in traditional medicine, is an expert in the development of natural medicines. As part of its aim to invest in the innovation and development of natural medicines, Zixin is opening expertise centres around the world. Today marks the first step towards Zixin's European ginseng expertise and research centre opening in Leiden.

Mr. Guo, counsellor at Zixin: "We are looking forward to co-operating with Fytagoras in the field of Chinese medicine, especially in the development of breeding and scientific research of ginseng. We hope that our partnership can promote research into Chinese medicine and more innovative products for the EU market."

The partnership will provide Zixin with access to Fytagoras's expertise in the area of plant breeding and seed production, and focus mainly on the additional development and production of Ginseng and Chinese medicines based on natural ingredients. For Fytagoras, the partnership means further developing its expertise, finding broader applications for it and expanding staff by 30%.

Background to the partnership

The partnership between Fytagoras and Zixin was made possible with support from The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency, InnovationQuarter and the WestHolland Foreign Investment Agency. As part of its aim to expand into Europe and set up an expertise centre, Zixin was looking for a suitable partner with research knowledge into seed and plant processing. As a result, the partnership with Fytagoras based at Leiden Bio Science Park provided a logical match.

Zixin is confident that it has found a long-term partner in Fytagoras - a partner who supports further research into the ginseng plant and its development and processing as medication for the consumer market.

Image from left to right: Mei Wang (SU Biomedicine), Derk Jan Statema (WestHolland Foreign Investment Agency), , Frits van Horssen (Fytagoras BV), Guo Chunsheng (Zixin), Alderman Damen (Gemeente Leiden), Lissa Boxy and Chris van Voorden (InnovationQuarter).

End of communication

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About Jilin Zixin Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.

Jilin Zixin Pharmaceutical Industrial Co. Ltd. main areas of activity involve the development, production and sale of Chinese medicine for cardiac-cerebral vascular disease, digestive diseases and bone fracture treatment. The company also cultivates herbs used in the development of Chinese medicine.

About Fytagoras

Fytagoras is a leading research company applying plant physiology and bio-cell findings to research focusing on plant breeding, seed production, the medicinal effects of plants and plant cultivation. Fytagoras' clients include national and international vegetable and ornamental breeding companies.

About InnovationQuarter

InnovationQuarter is the regional development agency for West Holland. InnovationQuarter finances innovative and fast-growing companies, assists foreign companies in establishing their businesses in West Holland, and facilitates partnerships between innovative entrepreneurs, research institutions and governments. In this way, and in co-operation with the business community, InnovationQuarter supports the development of West Holland in becoming one of the most innovative regions in Europe.

The InnovationQuarter Investment Fund (58 million euros) offers venture capital to emerging technology companies and SMEs positioned to create growth in the region with innovative products and services. The fund contributes to InnovationQuarter's aim of advancing the regional economy.

InnovationQuarter is an initiative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Province of South Holland, the Cities of Rotterdam, The Hague, Leiden, Delft, Dordrecht, and Westland, Delft University of Technology, Leiden University, the Leiden University Medical Center and Erasmus Medical Centre.

About WestHolland Foreign Investment Agency

The role of the WestHolland Foreign Investment Agency (WFIA) is to attract international companies to The Hague, help them relocate and assist them in establishing and expanding their business activities in the city. Furthermore, the WFIA helps the Municipality of The Hague and the Convention Bureau attract international congresses, seminars and non-governmental organisations to The Hague. The WFIA was founded in 2000 by municipalities within the WestHolland region.