

Bayer Trendlines Ag Innovation Fund co-invests with Trendlines in ProJini Agchem

Innovative interdisciplinary approach will lead to development of pesticides with new modes of action for crop protection

Misgav, Israel, and Monheim, Germany – 7 January 2020 – The Bayer Trendlines Ag Innovation Fund (“**the Fund**”), set up by Bayer CropScience LP (“**Bayer**”) and The Trendlines Group Ltd. (“**Trendlines**”) (SGX: 42T; OTCQX: TRNLY), announced the establishment of ProJini Agchem Ltd. (“**ProJini Agchem**”), a new company focused on developing a platform technology to develop novel pesticides with new modes of action.

Pesticides are the main tools the farmer uses to control pests. Pests (insects, diseases and weeds) cause up to 40% yield loss in agriculture, according to FAO estimations¹. The pesticide market in 2018 reached an estimated US\$55B in annual sales².

Current solutions are insufficient, due to increased resistance, as well as regulatory pressure. Additionally, despite the investment of billions in R&D per year by agchem companies, innovative solutions based on novel modes of action is limited.

ProJini Agchem is developing a solution focused on new types of molecular targets: protein-protein interactions. While such interactions are at the core of any organism, it is very challenging to develop inhibitors for such systems via conventional approaches due to their spatial and chemical characteristics. The platform, developed by scientists Maayan Gal, PhD and Itay Bloch at the Migal Galilee Research Institute Ltd., leverages a combination of computational-biophysical methods to tackle this significant challenge. ProJini Agchem received an exclusive license to use this platform to develop novel pesticides with new modes of action.

“Discovering new active ingredients and modes of action remains a top objective for agriculture in the future” said Axel Trautwein, Head of Small Molecules, Crop Science division of Bayer. “Establishing ProJini Agchem with Trendlines is a prime example of how our ‘open innovation’ model works in Crop Science R&D, with the aim of supporting farmers to always achieve better standards in protecting their harvests.” said Allen Christian, Head of Open Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, Crop Science division of Bayer.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1187738/icode/>

² <https://www.industryarc.com/Report/18229/pesticides-market-research-report-analysis.html>



“The need to develop new crop protection technologies to enhance food security is of high importance. Not only are known pesticides ineffective due to resistance, they are also of environmental concern. ProJini Agchem has risen to the challenge of developing new modes of intervention to provide the market with novel, more effective crop protection methods,” says Steve Rhodes, Chairman and CEO of Trendlines. “Because protein-protein interactions are species specific, we expect the company to discover targeted pesticides that will be less harmful to the environment. ProJini Agchem is the third company established by the Fund and boosts Trendlines’ growing ag-bio sector of portfolio companies.”

The Bayer Trendlines Ag Innovation Fund was established in April 2016 as a collaborative partnership between The Trendlines Group and Bayer to invest in agricultural technologies. The partnership agreement includes a US\$10 million investment from Bayer. Bayer’s decades of experience in agricultural science, innovation and regulatory affairs, alongside Trendlines’ specialization in investing in innovative, early-stage medical and agricultural technologies, form the base of this strong alliance.

About The Trendlines Group

Trendlines is an innovation commercialization company that invents, discovers, invests in, and incubates innovation-based medical and agricultural technologies to fulfill its mission to improve the human condition. As intensely hands-on investors, Trendlines is involved in all aspects of its portfolio companies from technology development to business building. Trendlines’ shares are traded on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX: 42T) and in the United States as an American Depositary Receipt (ADR) on the OTCQX (OTCQX: TRNLY).

Bayer: Science For A Better Life

About Bayer

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and nutrition. Its products and services are designed to benefit people by supporting efforts to overcome the major challenges presented by a growing and aging global population. At the same time, the Group aims to increase its earning power and create value through innovation and growth. Bayer is committed to the principles of sustainable development, and the Bayer brand stands for trust, reliability and quality throughout the world. In fiscal 2018, the Group employed around 117,000 people and had sales of 39.6 billion euros. Capital expenditures amounted to 2.6 billion euros, R&D expenses to 5.2 billion euros. For more information, go to www.bayer.com.

This press release has been prepared by the Company and its contents have been reviewed by the Company's sponsor, PrimePartners Corporate Finance Pte. Ltd. (the "Sponsor") in accordance with Rules 226(2)(b) and 753(2) of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the "SGX-ST") Listing Manual Section B: Rules of Catalyst.

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The contact person for the Sponsor is Ms. Jennifer Tan, Associate Director, Continuing Sponsorship (Mailing Address: 16 Collyer Quay, #10-00 Income at Raffles, Singapore 049318 and E-mail: sponsorship@ppcf.com.sg).

Investor Contact Information

Israel:

Shira Zimmerman, The Trendlines Group

shira@trendlines.com

Tel: +972.72.260.7000

Singapore and China:

Reyna MEI, Financial PR

reyna@financialpr.com.sg