

# PRESS RELEASE

## **flyion Closes Second Financing Round**

### **Specialist for fully automated patch-clamp robots extends capacities for developing biological assays**

**Tübingen, January 18, 2005** – flyion, the world-wide operating german manufacturer of fully automated and software controlled patch-clamp robots, has announced the closing of a EUR 1.2 mio. round of financing today. The proceeds from this financing round will be primarily used to expand flyion's market share in the automated patch-clamp business segment. Additionally the company will accelerate the process of biological assay development. The company already generates an attractive turnover today and expects to increase its actual market share in the current fiscal year.

The ICH steering committee for drug safety guidelines has issued a draft consensus on June 10, 2004 (ICH 7SB). This document requires drug companies to record ionic currents for assessing the potential of a drug to interact with the cardiac action potential. Patch clamping has been acknowledged to be the "Gold Standard" to record ion channels. However, the standard approach to patch clamping by finding a cell visually is time consuming, needs experienced academic personnel, and allows only a low-throughput. flyion GmbH has developed the revolutionary Flip-the-Tip® technology, providing full automation of the patch-clamp technology. Drug discovery and safety pharmacology become now more cost-efficient through hands off patch clamp recording in several cells simultaneously.

The participants in the financing round are Mediport Venture Fonds Zwei and SEED together with L-EigenkapitalAgentur (L-EA) of the L-Bank Baden Wuerttemberg.

PD Dr. Thomas Frischmuth CEO at Mediport says: " flyion is one of the funds most successful investment, where we participated from the start up phase through development of the ion channel robot device up to the first sales of the machine. We believe that this financing round will give flyion the opportunity of internationalising their marketing of the Flyscreen® machine".

flyion GmbH

“flyion convinced us in every respect. The company developed an outstanding, unique technology with the necessary market proof in an important market segment of drug discovery and development. This funding will give flyion the power to accelerate its commercial program in the drug discovery and development field,” says Dr. Werner Zöllner, Senior Partner at SEED.

### **About Mediport**

**Mediport** Venture Fonds Zwei is a specialized venture capital firm investing into young biotechnology and medical device companies. The fund is participating in financing rounds from seed to late stage phases.

### **About SEED**

**SEED** together with L-EigenkapitalAgentur (L-EA) of the L-Bank Baden-Wuerttemberg invests venture capital in innovative companies with a high-growth potential. Core focus of the investment activities are all areas of high-technology as biotechnology, medical technology, software and hardware technology as well as new materials.

SEED's basic philosophy is that predictable growth of a market segment or a specific firm is achieved mainly through technological innovation. The technology must be cutting edge by international comparison, and clearly targeted to a market that can be identified at least rudimentarily from the start.

### **About L-EA**

L-EigenkapitalAgentur (**L-EA**) represents the business subject venture capital of the L-Bank Baden-Wuerttemberg. L-EA focuses on emerging companies during seed and start-up phase, including future financing rounds. The equity financing is accompanied by intensive management support for each company together with its partner SEED. The L-EA and SEED collaboration has at its disposal a total volume of €100m of L-EA funds.

### **About flyion GmbH**

The revolutionary technology for ion channel screening places flyion in the forefront of ion channel drug discovery instrumentation providers.

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## flyion's Flyscreen®8500 Patch Clamp Robot

flyion's pipette-based ion channel screening platform, the Flyscreen®8500, leads the revolution in ion channel drug discovery. The robot creates true patch-clamp data for several hours completely unattended. Flyscreen®8500's patch clamp hardware, built around the well-known HEKA EPC-10 amplifiers, together with Flyscreen Suite® software, provides a complete turnkey solution for industrial patch clamp needs. The Flyscreen® system uses an elegant concept, the capture of a mammalian target cell inside a glass tip, to automate and simplify a process that has hitherto required highly skilled technicians. flyion's patch clamp robot offers a scalable system that can be operated by non-specialists and which increases productivity per person one hundred to one thousand times while at the same time reducing the cost per data point.

*This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The forward-looking statements contained herein represent the judgment of flyion GmbH as of the date of this release. These forward-looking statements are no guarantee for future performance, and the forward-looking events discussed in this press release may not occur. flyion disclaims any intent or obligation to update any of these forward-looking statements.*

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