

## **NUTRILEADS CLOSES SERIES A ROUND TO ADVANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS LEAD NUTRITIONAL INGREDIENT SUPPORTING IMMUNE FUNCTION**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> 2017, Wageningen, The Netherlands**, Dutch nutritional health ingredients startup NUTRILEADS B.V. today announces the successful closing of a Series A financing round with existing shareholders DSM VENTURING, PPM OOST, SHIFT INVEST and THUJA CAPITAL.

NutriLeads develops supportive nutritional ingredients for application in dietary supplements, medical food and functional food products intended for specific target populations seeking to support their immune function. Its lead ingredient aims to support immune function and increase resistance to common infectious diseases such as colds and flu.

A proof of concept study in human volunteers showed an excellent tolerability and safety profile. More importantly, a dose dependent effect regarding the enhancement of immune function was demonstrated. In addition to these positive clinical results, a recent production pilot showed the feasibility of a cost-effective and sustainable production process for its lead ingredient.

The current Series A financing will be used to support the further development of NutriLead's lead ingredient, a novel Immune Modulating Plant Polysaccharide. During the next phase, production will be scaled up and two human clinical trials to substantiate the immune supportive effect in different target populations will be performed.

*"The current investment supports the fast track development of our lead ingredient for application in dietary supplements, medical foods and functional foods. We are confident that this will help us realize our ambition to partner with ingredient suppliers and food companies to bring the benefits of our health ingredients to patients and consumers"* indicates Ruud Albers, PhD, CEO of NutriLeads.

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# NutriLeads

catalyzing nutrition & health innovations

**NUTRILEADS** is a startup that develops nutritional ingredients with demonstrated health effects. NutriLeads aims to catalyze nutritional health innovation in the food industry by partnering with relevant companies to identify promising lead ingredients, developing sustainable and commercially viable production processes, managing the regulatory challenges and initiating scientific & clinical programs to substantiate the health effects of these ingredients. Together we will bring the benefits of the proprietary ingredients to patients and consumers.

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## THUJA CAPITAL

healthcare **investors**

**THUJA CAPITAL** is an independent venture capital firm specialized in investing in early-stage medical product companies in the Netherlands and Belgium. We leverage good science with entrepreneurship and capital, in order to accelerate innovative, affordable medical products to patients, thus pairing societal return to attractive financial reward for our shareholders. The team of Thuja Capital has a long-standing and successful track record in investments in, and management of, medical product companies.

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## DSM

BRIGHT SCIENCE. BRIGHTER LIVING.

**DSM VENTURING** is the corporate venture capital unit of Royal DSM N.V., undertaking minority investments in innovative start-up companies, in-line with DSM's Open Innovation Strategy.

DSM – Bright Science. Brighter Living.™ Royal DSM is a global science-based company active in health, nutrition and materials. By connecting its unique competences in Life Sciences and Materials Sciences DSM is driving economic prosperity, environmental progress and social advances to create sustainable value for all stakeholders simultaneously. DSM delivers innovative solutions that nourish, protect and improve

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performance in global markets such as food and dietary supplements, personal care, feed, medical devices, automotive, paints, electrical and electronics, life protection, alternative energy and bio-based materials. DSM and its associated companies deliver annual net sales of about €10 billion with approximately 25,000 employees. The company is listed on Euronext Amsterdam.

For more information about DSM: [www.dsm.com](http://www.dsm.com)



**PPM OOST** (Participatiemaatschappij Oost Nederland NV) is a government backed venture capital firm and one of the leading providers of venture capital and early stage finance to SMEs in the Netherlands with over € 300 million under management. PPM Oost invests in promising companies that contribute to a flourishing economy in the East Netherlands.

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**SHIFT INVEST** is a Dutch venture capital fund that invests in innovations related to the food & agriculture value chain, healthy nutrition and clean (bio-based) technologies. Through our investments, we strive to create environmental sustainability or health impact alongside financial return. Within our food&health theme, SHIFT focus is on innovations related to cure to care with high quality, healthy food, consumption and lifestyle. SHIFT's team, together with the fund partners Wageningen UR, Menzis, TU Delft, Rabobank and WWF, offer entrepreneurs a broad network and knowledge of the sector.

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