August 7, 2025

Luxna Biotech Co., Ltd.

Luxna Biotech Raises 150 million Yen in Second Close of Series C Funding Round. The total amount raised to date is 2.69 billion yen. Collaborating with pharmaceutical and chemical companies, the company aims to accelerate nucleic acid drug discovery using promising nucleic acids.

Luxna Biotech Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Suita City, Osaka Prefecture; President and CEO: Hideaki Sato), which aims to develop nucleic acid medicines using promising artificial nucleic acids in collaboration with pharmaceutical and chemical companies, has raised 150 million yen in the second close of its Series C Funding Round. In this funding round, Luxna Biotech conducted a third-party allotment of new shares to the following investors.

■“Mitsubishi UFJ Life Science No.4 Investment Limited Partnership” operated by Mitsubishi UFJ Capital Co., Ltd.

■Summit Pharmaceuticals International Corporation

■“KUC No.1 Investment Limited Partnership” operated by Kobe University Capital Co., Ltd. and SBI University Venture Fund Management Co., Ltd.

■“Kansai Mirai Success Support Investment Limited Partnership” operated by MIRAIDOOR Co., Ltd.

Summit Pharmaceuticals International Corporation, a previous investor, also participated through an additional investment in this round. The total amount raised to date, including this round's capital loan, is 2.69 billion yen.

【Background】

Since our establishment in December 2017 (start of business: February 2018), we have built a drug discovery platform (hereinafter "LuxiAP®") for nucleic acid drugs, especially antisense nucleic acid drug discovery (hereinafter "antisense"), based on a group of artificial nucleic acid technologies (hereinafter "Luxna XNAs technology") invented by the group of Professor Satoshi Obika of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University, which are expected to achieve both high activity and low toxicity and are conducting drug discovery for intractable diseases through close collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, chemical companies, biotech companies, universities, etc. In the research to build LuxiAP® so far, we have found several insights on safety and usefulness in the central nervous system field and applied them to antisense drugs. This result has been utilized in the XNAs technology license agreement with Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., which was realized in 2022, and in several joint development projects with Servier, a global pharmaceutical group in France, with which we initiated drug discovery collaboration in 2023. In addition, a joint proposal by Luxna Biotech, Osaka University, Kyoto University, and Renascience Co., Ltd. was selected for the FY2024 funding under the AMED Smart-Bio Program, administered by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). This research aims to create nucleic acid therapeutics for neurodegenerative and muscular diseases,

promoting early practical application through industry-academia collaboration.

【Use of funds raised】

In order to accelerate progress, continuously produce development candidates, and advance jointly developed products to clinical trials, we have reached this second close of Series C fundraising. In the future, we will utilize the extensive technology and knowledge in pharmaceutical development and the global network of our shareholders to strengthen our business development functions and invest in research and development, and aim to advance joint drug discovery and expand collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, promote development of technology out-licensing destinations and search for new out-licensing opportunities, accelerate development of our drug discovery pipeline and out-licensing activities, further exploring our antisense platform LuxiAP®, and expand drug discovery collaboration with domestic and overseas pharmaceutical companies using Luxna XNAs technology. Through this fundraising, Luxna Biotech will work together to create medicines that will be a "light Lux" for patients fighting disease and those who support them, which is our mission.

【Comments from the underwriter】

Nobuhiro Miyoko, Manager, Investment department for Life Science, Mitsubishi UFJ Capital Co., Ltd.

We have made an investment in Luxna Biotech as part of the Second close of its Series C funding round. Luxna XNAs platform technology is expected to deliver superior safety and efficacy—achievements that were previously unattainable with conventional nucleic acid therapeutics. Luxna is already engaged in collaborations with several major pharmaceutical firms both in Japan and overseas. By leveraging MUFG's resources, we will support Luxna's continued growth, accelerate its global expansion, and help deliver innovative therapies to patients as soon as possible.

Katsuya Okuyama, President & CEO, Summit Pharmaceuticals International Corporation

We have made the additional investment this time with the great hopes that Luxna Biotech's innovative medicines, developed using its proprietary artificial nucleic acid technologies, will one day reach patients suffering from intractable diseases as soon as possible. Through this investment, we will support Luxna's ongoing joint research with pharmaceutical partners, as well as the licensing and collaboration for their development pipeline. We also remain committed to providing solid support in the manufacturing and supply of the artificial nucleic acids by making the most of our supply chain network, and to continuing full support for Luxna's growth.

Yoshifumi Mizuhara, Managing Partner & CEO, Kobe University Capital Co., Ltd.

Luxna Biotech is working to overcome the challenges associated with nucleic acid therapeutics through its proprietary monomer-based nucleic acid drug discovery platform. We have highly evaluated the company's technological superiority and broad applicability, which led us to make this investment. Collaborative research with multiple pharmaceutical companies is already underway, and we expect that

Luxna's continued focus on this field will significantly advance the industrial application of nucleic acid therapeutics. We are fully committed to supporting the social implementation of this technology so that new treatments utilizing it can reach patients as soon as possible.

Yuya Kobayashi, Investment Officer, MIRAIDOOR Co., Ltd.

Through the Kansai Mirai Success Support Investment Limited Partnership, established jointly with Kansai Mirai Bank, we have invested in Luxna Biotech. Luxna has established a drug discovery platform for nucleic acid therapeutics—particularly antisense oligonucleotide drugs—based on a group of artificial nucleic acid technologies expected to achieve both high potency and low toxicity, and we anticipate Luxna's further development on a global scale. Nucleic acid medicines are gaining attention as next-generation therapies, particularly in areas where few effective therapies exist. As a fund, we will continue to provide our fullest support so that Luxna can grow into a startup that makes meaningful contributions to patients and to the future of society.

【Overview of Luxna Biotech Co., Ltd.】
Head office and research center: 2-8 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka
Representative: Hideaki Sato
Established: December 2017

Luxna Biotech is a biotech company launched from Osaka University, that aims to develop safe and effective nucleic acid drugs based on the nucleic acid chemistry technology accumulated at Professor Satoshi Obika's lab and to deliver medicines that will be a blessing to patients and their supporters who are fighting diseases for which there are no effective drugs. The company's main product is antisense drugs, actively promoting joint development with multiple pharmaceutical companies, technology out-licensing, and in-house drug discovery. In October 2022, the company was certified as one of the J-Startup KANSAI companies by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's Kinki Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, and also in April 2023, it was certified as one of the J-Startup companies by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. In December 2023, the Kansai Innovation Initiative (KSII) selected the company as a "KSII Zebra" as a startup that meets the definition and criteria set by KSII. For more information, please visit Luxna Biotech's website (https://luxnabiotech.co.jp/).

■Luxna XNAs technologies:

This is the collective name for a group of artificial nucleic acids, including AmNA, scpBNA, GuNA, and 5'-CP, which were created as a result of the research by Professor Obika of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Osaka University. It is possible to create highly active antisense drugs that have strong binding power to RNA, and by combining technologies, it is possible to significantly reduce liver toxicity and neurotoxicity, thereby increasing the success rate of pharmaceutical development.

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■LuxiAP®

LuxiAP® is an abbreviation for Luxna's XNAs incorporated Antisense Platform which refers to an antisense drug discovery platform incorporating Luxna's XNAs technology. LuxiAP® is a proprietary platform technology that increases the success rate of drug discovery and efficiently creates development candidate compounds, allowing development candidate compounds to be obtained in approximately one and a half to two years.

<Inquiries>
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