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Calixar closes an initial €875,000 funding round

Calixar SAS, a start-up providing services focused on membrane proteins, has completed an initial funding round in which it has raised €875,000 from private investors and business angels. The investors that took part in the financing were Siparex, Veymont Participations, INPG Entreprise SA, and regional business angels from the Health-Angels Rhone-Alpes, Savoie Angels and Grenoble Angels networks. The company said the funds would enable Calixar to develop its international operations and move its research programmes forward. It also said the funding meant the company would be able to offer more targeted services and give a broader client base easy access to its technology which has already been validated on a range of targets including GPCR receptors, ionic channels, transporters and viral proteins.

Calixar’s approach to producing, isolating and purifying therapeutic or vaccine targets makes it possible to preserve the native state of membrane proteins, which are involved in numerous pathologies and currently account for more than 70 per cent of therapeutic targets. The company has an exclusive worldwide licence for the exploitation of two patents held by the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and the University of Lyon relating to generic membrane protein extraction and crystallisation processes utilising original non-denaturing reagents. The aim is to make targets more immutable so the process of discovering new drugs and vaccines is rendered more reliable and more efficient.

Calixar was founded in January 2011 based in the CREALYS incubator. It is now located within the Institute of Biology and Protein Chemistry at Claude Bernard University in Lyon, a research establishment run in conjunction with the CNRS, and employs nine people.

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