



## Mabqi, the French specialist in therapeutic antibodies for oncology, obtains €5 million in non-dilutive financing from France 2030's "Innovations in Biotherapies and Bioproduction" call for projects



- **Awarded funding from the French government under the France 2030 program's *Innovations in Biotherapies and Bioproduction* call for projects**
- **Acceleration of the development of a patented *first-in-class* antibody for the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer, one of the most common cancers in the world, with a clinical trial start planned for early 2027**
- **Mabqi is the only player in Europe capable of selecting "pH-sensitive" antibodies for the specific and secured immune-targeting of the tumor**
- **Strong contribution of Mabqi to the French biotherapy sector via its cutting-edge technological platform for the discovery and development of new antibody-based therapeutic treatments**

Grabels, France, February 26, 2025 - Mabqi, a biotechnology company specializing in the development of therapeutic antibodies for the treatment of cancer, today announced that it has obtained €5 million in funding from the French government under the *Innovations in Biotherapies and Bioproduction* call for projects under of the France 2030 program operated on behalf of the French government by Bpifrance.

**Mabqi develops a *first-in-class* MQI-201 antibody** that specifically targets TRPV6 ion channel, an innovative therapeutic target in oncology involved in the development of several cancers with high medical need, including prostate cancer. This funding will enable Mabqi to launch the bioproduction of this antibody, to carry out all the regulatory preclinical stages and to conduct an initial Phase 1a clinical study, which is scheduled to start early 2027.

*"This grant serves as a true catalyst for our development, funding a significant part of our growth. It is part of a broader strategy to structure and strengthen our financial resources, enabling us to accelerate our expansion and establish ourselves as a key player in the industry,"* said **Maxime Waldron, Chief Financial Officer at Mabqi.**

### **MQI-201 has already shown excellent safety and efficacy *in vivo* prostate cancer models**

Mabqi's MQI-201 antibody candidate, generated and characterized in **collaboration with SATT Nord and INSERM U1003 from Lille**, has already shown excellent tolerance and high efficacy *in vivo* prostate cancer models and could, in the long term, be used in combination with standard prostate cancer treatments.

## **Acceleration of the development for the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer, one of the most common cancers in the world**

Considered the second most common cancer in adult men, prostate cancer is the fourth most widespread cancer in the world, with 560,000 new patients recorded each year in the 8 key markets (or MM8)<sup>1</sup> countries alone. Current treatments are based on the use of second-generation hormone therapies, ADT (Androgen Deprivation Therapy) or taxane chemotherapies. However, the medical need remains high, particularly in cases of treatment resistance where the probability of metastatic cancer developing within 5 years is as high as 80%. Metastatic cancers thus account for 50% of prostate cancer cases identified in MM8 countries, with a 5-year survival rate of only 34%<sup>2</sup>.

*"We are very pleased to have obtained this funding from the French government via France 2030, which demonstrates the scientific relevance of our technology platform in the development of new immunotherapies with high medical potential," concluded Sylvain Yon, CEO of Mabqi. "Mabqi's innovative antibody selection and development technology now meets one of the key needs of the French therapeutic biotechnology sector, offering a rapid, efficient and highly selective bioproduction tool for the development of innovative biotherapies, capable of meeting unresolved medical needs in many pathologies. Our first-in-class antibody MQI-201, currently being studied in the treatment of prostate cancer, has proven potential in the treatment of other cancer indications, such as pancreatic or ovarian cancer, indications that we will explore in a second phase."*

## **Mabqi: a leading technology platform for the development of *first-in-class* and *best-in-class* antibodies in immune-oncology**

Mabqi's world-renowned technological platform is based on the use of phage and yeast display technologies combined with artificial intelligence tools. Mabqi is able to rapidly identify 100 human functional antibodies interacting with a given therapeutic target and exhibiting remarkable stability and production potential, guaranteeing their adaptation to the clinical process via large-scale production.

Mabqi is **the only European company to develop "pH-sensitive" antibodies capable of preferentially targeting the acidic tumor microenvironment** in order to increase specificity and efficacy within the tumor itself.

Currently, Mabqi has a portfolio of six proprietary antibodies under development, two are developed internally and four are intended to be co-developed or partnered with leading players in the pharmaceutical industry.

### **About Mabqi**

Founded in 2017, Mabqi is a biotechnology company specializing in the discovery and development of human antibodies, particularly in oncology. The company relies on a synthetic library of several billion of highly developable and functional human antibodies, combined with phage and yeast display techniques, integrated with AI. The company has also unique expertise in the generation of pH-sensitive antibodies, multispecific antibodies and ADCs.

### **About France 2030**

✓ **Translates a dual ambition:** to sustainably transform key sectors of our economy (healthcare, energy, automotive, aeronautics and space) through technological innovation, and to position France not just as a player, but as a leader in the world of tomorrow. From fundamental research to the emergence of an idea, to the production of a new product or service, France 2030 supports the entire life cycle of innovation right through to industrialization.

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<sup>1</sup> France, The United-States, The United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Spain, Japan, and China

<sup>2</sup> Source: American Cancer Society GlobalData

✓ **Is unprecedented in its scale:** €54 billion will be invested to ensure that our companies, universities and research organizations fully succeed in their transitions in these strategic sectors. The challenge: to enable them to respond competitively to the ecological and attractive challenges of the world to come, and to bring out the future leaders of our sectors of excellence. France 2030 is defined by two cross-cutting objectives consisting of devoting 50% of its spending to decarbonizing the economy, and 50% to emerging players, carriers of innovation without spending unfavorable to the environment (in the sense of the Do No Significant Harm principle).

✓ **Is implemented collectively:** designed and deployed in consultation with economic, academic, local and European players to determine its strategic orientations and flagship actions. Project leaders are invited to submit their applications via open, demanding and selective procedures to benefit from state support.

✓ **Is steered by the Secrétariat général pour l'investissement** on behalf of the Prime Minister and implemented by the Agence de la transition écologique (ADEME), the Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR), Bpifrance and the Banque des Territoires.

For more information: [france2030.gouv.fr](http://france2030.gouv.fr) | [@SGPI\\_avenir](https://twitter.com/SGPI_avenir)

### About the call for projects "Innovations in biotherapies and bioproduction"

The call for projects "Innovations in biotherapies and bioproduction" is a support mechanism that is part of the acceleration strategy "Biotherapies and bioproduction of innovative therapies". Its objective is to catalyze and maintain excellence in biotherapy research, in particular by accelerating technology transfer and ensuring a constant flow of innovations, from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside.

The submission was prepared in partnership with the consulting company MabDesign.

### About Bpifrance

Bpifrance finances companies - at every stage of their development - with credit, guarantees and equity capital. Bpifrance supports them in their innovation and international projects. Bpifrance also supports their export activities through a wide range of products. Consulting, university, networking and acceleration programs for startups, SMEs and ETIs are also part of the services offered to entrepreneurs. Thanks to Bpifrance and its 50 regional offices, entrepreneurs benefit from a close, single and efficient contact to support them and meet their challenges.

For more information: <http://www.bpifrance.fr/> - <https://presse.bpifrance.fr>

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