

PRESS RELEASE

Bioventure Invests in Repairon: A Strategic Partnership Shaping the Future of Regenerative Cardiac Medicine

Göttingen, April 7, 2025 – With the signing of an equity agreement on April 2, 2025, biotech pioneers Repairon GmbH and life science investor Bioventure Management GmbH, both based in Göttingen, have entered into a strategic partnership with the potential to fundamentally change the treatment of heart failure worldwide.

Bioventure is investing in Repairon – a spin-off from the University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG) – with the aim of supporting the clinical development and commercialization of its pioneering “heart patch”* therapy.

“With Repairon, we are investing in a company that not only possesses groundbreaking technology, but also exemplifies how medical progress can be translated into societal benefit through visionary research and entrepreneurial excellence,” says **Dr. Erik Hoppe**, Managing Director of Bioventure. “We believe that Repairon’s regenerative therapies will play a key role in the cardiology of tomorrow.”

Repairon was founded in 2014 by **Prof. Dr. Wolfram-Hubertus Zimmermann** and **Dr. Lothar Germeroth**. The company develops functional, lab-grown human heart muscle tissue – known as Engineered Human Myocardium (EHM) – to biologically repair damaged hearts. The technology, developed over decades at UMG, is now in the clinical stage as part of the BioVAT-HF-DZHK20 study and is being used for the first time in patients with advanced heart failure.

“Having Bioventure as a strong partner at our side marks a major milestone on our path from early-stage clinical trials through to regulatory approval and ultimately broad patient access,” says Dr. Lothar Germeroth, Managing Director of Repairon.

“Bioventure’s support helps us further scale our processes, pursue regulatory pathways with focus, and bring our lead product to market quickly.”

This investment comes at a pivotal time, as Repairon enters uncharted clinical territory with its heart patch therapy. In the world’s first clinical trial for biological cardiac repair, 17 patients have already been treated with implantable heart patches containing up to 800 million cardiac cells. Initial efficacy data is already available.

“Repairon not only has the potential to redefine treatment for severe heart failure – it may elevate regenerative medicine as a whole to a new level,”

emphasizes **Nico Straub**, Partner at Bioventure and Head of Investment Management. “After intensive negotiations, we’re excited to move forward with this landmark project. The heart patch is not just a product – it symbolizes a future of medicine that heals what is currently considered incurable.”

By the end of 2026, Bioventure plans to secure full clinical development and market readiness of the heart patch through multiple funding rounds. The current investment lays the contractual foundation for this process.

In addition to Bioventure, Sartorius – a DAX-listed life science company headquartered in Göttingen – is also a co-shareholder in Repairon and has recently increased its investment. Sartorius supports the industrial production of the heart patch by providing bioreactors, cytokines, cryopreservation systems, and essential process know-how – a prime example of how cutting-edge research and high-tech industry can come together in Southern Lower Saxony.

“Repairon is exactly the kind of company Bioventure is looking to invest in: scientifically outstanding, medically impactful, and with strong international scaling potential,” adds Dr. Erik Hoppe. “We are proud to actively contribute to this journey – with capital, expertise, and a clear focus on long-term value creation.”

*Note: “heart patch” refers to a bioengineered cardiac tissue implant developed for the biological repair of damaged heart muscle.

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COMPANY PROFILE: REPAIRON

Founded in 2014 based on the pioneering work of Prof. Wolfram Zimmermann and his team, Repairon develops tissue-based technologies that are clinically applicable and open up new therapeutic options.

The corresponding intellectual property rights were exclusively licensed to Repairon to enable commercialization of its innovative, tissue-engineered products.

With its first round of funding in 2017, Repairon established a strong strategic partnership with the University Medical Center Göttingen and the German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK). This public-private collaboration enabled the company to advance its lead therapeutic product – Engineered Human Myocardium (EHM) – from R&D and preclinical characterization through to clinical development, laying a solid foundation for commercial product development.

COMPANY PROFILE: BIOVENTURE

Bioventure was founded in 2001 and has evolved from a specialized consultancy into a successful investor in life science companies.

The focus is on businesses capable of delivering measurable improvements in healthcare through biomedical innovation.

Its investment model is based on exclusive club deals, where high-net-worth entrepreneurial families and family offices invest selectively in promising individual projects.

Bioventure provides active support throughout the investment cycle – from project selection and strategic development through to exit – enabling life science innovation to achieve both economic and societal impact.

To date, over €100 million has been distributed to investors. Successful exits with company valuations in the hundreds of millions to over a billion euros underline Bioventure's proven ability to scale high-growth startups.