

Press Release

**NTC, pharmaceutical company owned by Wise SGR,
acquires an important product portfolio in ophthalmology**

NTC, owned by Italian private equity fund Wisequity III, continues its expansion path and specialization in ophthalmology

Milan, May, 31st 2018 - NTC, Italian company specialized in the pharmaceutical sector and led by CEO Riccardo Carbucicchio, **announces the acquisition of a product portfolio** in the ophthalmic area, from Novartis, multinational leader, headquartered in Switzerland, that operates in the pharmaceutical sector.

NTC, owned by **Wise SGR** through Italian private equity fund Wisequity III, thanks to this operation, further strengthens its range of products in the ophthalmic area, in particular in Spain (but also in Italy, Portugal and Poland), where the company aims to launch its own network of medical sales representatives, as it already successfully happened in Italy in 2017, and to directly promote further products which are currently in development.

The products acquired by NTC from Novartis include Colircusi Gentadexa (aminoglycoside), Colircusi Gentamicin and Oftalmolosa Cusi Gentamicina (aminoglycoside), Oftalmolosa Cusi Erythromycin (macrolide), Oftalmolosa Cusi Aureomycin (tetracycline), and Oftacilox (fluoroquinolone).

Stefano Ghetti, partner of Wise, said: *"We are proud of how the management is transforming the company. Today NTC sells in more than 100 countries in the world, with strong growth potential thanks to the most relevant clinical research program in ophthalmology that has ever been developed in Europe in the last years. The acquisition of a product portfolio falls within the investment strategy of Wise that aims to provide support for the growth of its subsidiary companies also through synergetic acquisitions".*

Riccardo Carbucicchio, CEO Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of NTC declared: *"This agreement reinforces our industrial development program in the ophthalmic area. In fact, we are strongly committed to make new therapeutic solutions available in ophthalmology, to enable specialists to offer drugs, medical devices and food supplements and to improve the compliance of the patients who suffer from ophthalmic diseases. Many of our new products are designed and developed with the help of expert ophthalmologists, with whom we have established important research and development collaborations. Furthermore, we firmly believe in the importance of also having consolidated and successful products in our portfolio, alongside new therapeutic offerings, that maintain a fundamental role in the treatment of eye diseases. Thanks to the wide offer of the product portfolio, NTC will debut into the Spanish market under a leadership perspective".*

The operation has been financed with a mix of equity and debt. Wise and NTC have been advised as legal counsel by Simmons&Simmons and by Fineurop Soditic as advisor for the financing which was entirely provided by the Corporate Finance structure dedicated to the Small Mid Cap of Mediocredito Italiano (Gruppo Intesa Sanpaolo), which has been in turn advised by Dentons for the legal aspects".

Wise SGR SpA (www.wisesgr.it) specializes in the management of Private Equity closed-end funds, investing in small and medium-sized companies, with a special focus on Italy. The funds managed by Wise are typically involved in Leverage Buy-Out and capital increase transactions, dedicated to companies that are leaders in their niche markets. The two major objectives are to lead “build-up” transactions, in order to enhance competitiveness and profitability, and to push the international development. Wise, controlled by the management team, has currently two funds under management: Wisequity III, with commitment exceeding 180 M€, has three remaining companies in the portfolio: Colcom Group, NTC Controls, having already realized the investments held in Edos Media, Kijan, Primat, Biolchim and now in Alpitour. Wisequity IV closed the fund raising in March 2016 reaching its hard cap at 215 M€ and already invested the 50% of its own capital in five companies: Corob, Imprima, Tapi, Tatuus Racing and Aleph.

NTC is a pharmaceutical company headquartered in Milan - Italy, with distributors and partners in more than 100 countries in the world, engaged in research, development, registration and commercialization of drugs, medical devices and food supplements in ophthalmology, but also in other therapeutic areas like pediatrics and gastro-metabolism. NTC offers to its partners, currently more than 200 companies, innovative pharmaceutical products with high quality standards. For more details, please see NTC's website (<http://www.ntcpharma.com>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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