

**Press Release January 28, 2010**

Portfolio as at December 31, 2009

**BB BIOTECH AG up 14.9% in 2009 – Portfolio broadened**

In 2009, BB BIOTECH's share price increased by 14.9% in CHF and 13.9% in EUR (incl. dividends), in line with the strong performance of Nasdaq Biotech Index (NBI), and general stock market indices. BB BIOTECH's share price closed the year at CHF 76.65 (EUR 50.76). BB BIOTECH's Net Asset Value (NAV) increased by 5.8% (in USD incl. dividends) during 2009. During the year, we strengthened our efforts to close the discount between BB BIOTECH's share price and NAV. On July 6 2009, BB BIOTECH shareholders confirmed the resolution to initiate a share buyback program that corresponds to 10% of total share capital over the next three years. As a result, the discount decreased from 25.4% to 17.0% (in CHF) at the end of the year. Since inception in 1993, BB BIOTECH's NAV achieved a total performance of 543.5% (in USD, incl. dividends), outperforming the NBI's performance of 316.1% during that time period, as well as many other industry benchmarks. Consistent with BB BIOTECH's dividend policy that was introduced in 2004, the Board of Directors will propose at the annual shareholders' meeting in 2010 to pay a dividend of CHF 3.70.

BB BIOTECH's core holdings all showed advancements in terms of clinical development and commercial success. Vertex was the best performer amongst them, yielding a 41% share performance during 2009. The company reported further strong results for its novel drug Telaprevir, supporting our belief that the drug will cure a significant number of hepatitis C patients and become the gold standard of care in this disease.

Roche's acquisition of the minority stake of Genentech in March 2009 was a historic event within the biotech sector, and once again validated the innovative biotech business model and its attractiveness to pharma companies. As a long-term investor in Genentech, BB BIOTECH generated significant value to its shareholders with this transaction.

Actelion continued showing strong sales growth from its lead drug Tracleer for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). The company also announced positive top-line results from its first Phase III trial testing Almorexant, a novel therapy for insomnia. Further Phase III studies are planned to begin in the US in 2010.

Celgene announced positive clinical results showing that newly diagnosed multiple myeloma patients that are both eligible and ineligible for stem cell transplantation benefit significantly from the use of maintenance Revlimid treatment. These results bode well for increased use of the company's flagship product Revlimid, as an earlier and continuous treatment in multiple myeloma.

During 2009, BB BIOTECH initiated six new investment positions: Novo Nordisk, Micromet, Amgen, Genzyme, Clinuvel, and Probiobdrug. Novo Nordisk, a worldwide leader in diabetes care, continued showing strong sales growth and advances in its product pipeline. We are excited about Micromet's technology platform to generate bi-specific antibodies and its lead program, which has yielded positive preliminary results in the treatment of lymphoma. Probiobdrug is a privately held company we made an investment this year. The company impressed us with its pioneering scientific approach and novel target to treat Alzheimer's disease. In 2009, we reduced our position in Biogen Idec and added to our investments in Incyte, Arena, and Zymogenetics. We divested our holdings in Rigel and The Medicines Company. Having made an early private investment in The Medicines Company, BB BIOTECH realized a significant gain over the entire investment period.

We look forward to the finalization of US health care reform in 2010 as legislators appear close to a resolution. Coverage of the currently uninsured population in the US should increase demand for new medicines and services provided by biotech companies. We are not overly concerned about economic/cost pressures on innovative drugs, because new drugs that are differentiated (i.e. safety/efficacy) from existing therapies should be reimbursed and command premium pricing. Thus, we believe the innovation that is inherent in the biotech sector will yield many blockbuster therapies in the future. The combination of novel products and continuing strong growth of revenues and profits underlies our investment hypothesis in the biotech industry in the coming years.

# BBBIOTECH

BB BIOTECH AG

This is the composition of BB BIOTECH's Portfolio as at December 31, 2009 (in % of securities, rounded values):

## CORE HOLDINGS

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Actelion               | 28.3% |
| Celgene                | 17.2% |
| Gilead                 | 17.2% |
| Vertex Pharmaceuticals | 14.6% |

## SMALL PARTICIPATIONS

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Novo Nordisk                                       | 4.2%    |
| Zymogenetics                                       | 2.7%    |
| Amgen  | 2.0%    |
| Roche Holding                                      | 1.8%    |
| Incyte   | 1.7%    |
| Genzyme  | 1.4%    |
| Micromet   | 1.4%    |
| Arena Pharmaceuticals                              | 1.4%    |
| Biogen Idec  | 0.9%    |
| Basilea Pharmaceutica                              | 0.9%    |
| Affymetrix   | 0.8%    |
| Optimer Pharmaceuticals                            | 0.7%    |
| Elan   | 0.7%    |
| NicOx  | 0.6%    |
| Epigenomics  | 0.3%    |
| BioXell  | 0.3%    |
| Keryx Biopharmaceuticals                           | 0.1%    |
| Clinuvel   | <0.1%   |
| Probiodrug*  | 0.5%    |
| 3 % Convertible Bond Deutsche Bank (-18.05.2012)** | 0.2%    |
| Basilea Pharmaceutica put option (short)           | <(0.1%) |
| SWAP agreement on treasury shares                  | 0.1%    |

**Total securities** CHF 1 463.0 mn

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Liquid funds (net) | CHF 44.4 mn  |
| Other assets       | CHF 13.0 mn  |
| Other payables     | CHF (4.2) mn |

**Total shareholder's equity** CHF 1 516.2 mn

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Treasury shares (in % of company) | 9.9% |
|-----------------------------------|------|

\* Unlisted company

\*\* Convertible into registered shares BB BIOTECH AG

The Annual Report as at December 31, 2009 is available on March 4, 2010 under [www.bbbiotech.com](http://www.bbbiotech.com)

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## Company profile:

BB BIOTECH acquires holdings in companies in the biotechnology growth market and is currently one of the world's largest investors in the sector. BB BIOTECH is listed in Switzerland, in Germany and in Italy. The focus of the holdings is on quoted companies that are concentrating on the development and marketing of innovative medicines. For the selection of holdings, BB BIOTECH relies on fundamental analysis by physicians and molecular biologists. The Board of Directors has many years of industrial and scientific experience.