



### Calypso enters into agreement to be acquired by Novartis

- Calypso is a European biotech translating Interleukin-15 biology into medical breakthroughs by developing CALY-002, an anti-IL-15 monoclonal antibody, for an array of autoimmune indications
- The acquisition of Calypso gives Novartis full rights to CALY-002, a pipeline-in-a-drug with potential in dermatology, gastro-intestinal and rheumatology indications

Amsterdam, January 8, 2024 – Calypso Biotech BV ('Calypso'), a leader in the development of Interleukin15 (IL-15) targeted therapies, announced today that it has entered into an agreement to be acquired by Novartis AG ('Novartis'). Calypso's shareholders will receive an upfront payment of \$250 million upon closing and are eligible to receive development milestones of up to \$175 million based on the achievement of certain predetermined milestones.

Calypso, a spin-out from [Merck](#), is focused on the research and development of monoclonal antibodies for an array of autoimmune indications, with an expertise in IL-15 biology. IL-15 is a broad, untapped immune axis that controls barrier function and downstream immune cascades in many chronic autoimmune diseases. Calypso's lead product candidate, CALY-002, is a potential best-in-class therapeutic antibody that binds to and neutralizes Interleukin-15.

The acquisition gives Novartis full rights to CALY-002. Novartis intends to further explore CALY-002 across a wide variety of autoimmune indications with high unmet medical need. CALY-002 is currently evaluated in a Phase 1b trial in patients with Celiac Disease and Eosinophilic Esophagitis.

**Alain Vicari, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, Calypso, commented:** *"We are excited for this transaction with Novartis, a company with relentless commitment to the development of innovative therapies for autoimmune conditions. As part of the Novartis portfolio, CALY-002 is in the best position to be developed effectively, so that it can promptly address unmet medical needs in multiple indications"*

**Bernard Coulie, Chairman, Calypso, commented:** *"The transaction with Novartis constitutes the high point in the development path of CALY-002 for the Calypso team. Calypso has established a significantly de-risked profile for CALY-002 as a potential best-in-class therapeutic anti-IL-15 antibody"*

**Richard Siegel, Head of Immunology Research at Novartis, commented:** *"Novartis is committed to bringing innovative treatment options forward for patients living with immunological diseases. We're thrilled to add Calypso's potential best-in-class antibody to our Immunology pipeline and explore it in a spectrum of autoimmune indications."*

Lazard acted as financial advisor and Goodwin Procter LLP acted as legal counsel to Calypso.

#### About Calypso Biotech BV

Calypso is a private biotechnology company focused on the research and development of novel

biologics to address unmet medical need in autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

Calypso is developing a novel anti-IL-15 monoclonal antibody to treat a broad range of chronic autoimmune diseases by blocking Interleukin-15 (IL-15) and its wide-ranging functions at many levels of the immune response cascade. CALY-002, a highly potent monoclonal antibody, neutralizes all

forms of IL-15 through a uniquely effective molecular mode of action to reduce inflammation and prevent tissue destruction.

Calypso was founded by M Ventures, the corporate strategic venture arm of Merck, and is headquartered in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with offices and laboratories in Geneva, Switzerland. Investors include M Ventures, Inkef Capital, Gilde Healthcare, Fountain Healthcare Partners and Johnson & Johnson Innovation – JJDC, Inc. For more information see [www.calypsobiotech.com](http://www.calypsobiotech.com)

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