

PRESS RELEASE

WOLF THEISS ADVISES MSD ON THE ACQUISITION OF THE AUSTRIAN BIOTECH COMPANY THEMIS BIOSCIENCE

Vienna, 27 May 2020 – Merck, known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, counts on the expertise of Wolf Theiss in the acquisition of Themis Bioscience GmbH.

MSD, through a subsidiary, will acquire 100% of the Austrian biotech company in exchange for an undisclosed cash payment. Closing of the transaction is subject to customary regulatory clearances. The parties have agreed not to disclose the financial details of the transaction.

Themis was founded in 2009 and is developing a pipeline of vaccine candidates and immune-modulatory therapies on the basis of an innovative measles virus vector platform. Themis is currently researching a vaccine candidate targeting SARS-CoV-2 for the prevention of COVID-19.

MSD is a global leader in infectious diseases and vaccines, with a long history of researching, developing, manufacturing and distributing vaccines. The acquisition builds upon an ongoing collaboration between the two companies and is expected to accelerate the development of Themis' COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

The Wolf Theiss team was led by M&A partner Hartwig Kienast, supported by Wolf Theiss specialists in various fields of law: Lukas Slameczka, Michael Kienzl, Clemens Pretschner (all Corporate), Kurt Retter and Dominik Engel (Regulatory), Georg Kresbach and Adolf Zemmann (IP / IT), Ralf Peschek and Lisa Babler (Employment), Paulina Pomorski (IP / IT), Karl Binder and Michael Meindl (Real Estate) and Jochen Anweiler (Competition).

"This transaction was characterized by a particular intensity due to the current situation with COVID-19 and the research on a vaccine candidate by the target company," said Hartwig Kienast. "It also is another landmark transaction for our fast growing regional Healthcare M&A group."

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ABOUT WOLF THEISS

Founded in 1957, Wolf Theiss is one of the leading European law firms in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe with a focus on international business law. With 340 lawyers in 13 offices located in Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, Wolf Theiss represents local and international industrial, trade and service companies, as well as banks and insurance companies. Combining law and business, Wolf Theiss develops comprehensive and constructive solutions on the basis of legal, fiscal and business know-how.

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