



Spin-off of the VIB, a life sciences research institute, based in Flanders and the 'Vrije Universiteit Brussel' (VUB)

Established in 2001 and operational in early 2002

Milestones

- **1989:** Discovery that *camelidae* (camels and llamas) possess fully functional antibodies that lack light chains.
- **2001:** Creation spin-off Ablynx.
- **2006:** Ablynx moved into new facilities on the Technologiepark near Ghent.
- **2007:** Ablynx successfully completed its initial public offering (IPO) and listed on Eurolist by Euronext Brussels on November 7th 2007 under the symbol "ABLX".
- **on-going:** Ablynx has on-going research collaborations and significant partnerships with major pharmaceutical companies including Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck Serono, Novartis and Merck & Co.

Ablynx NV

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Ablynx Nanobodies® delivering therapeutics beyond antibodies

In 1989, a group of biologists led by Raymond Hamers at the 'Vrije Universiteit Brussel' (VUB) investigated an odd observation handed in as part of a student's project on **parasite immunodefense in dromedaries and camels**. One of the tests for **antibodies** in dromedary blood seemed to show an error: in addition to normal four-chain antibodies it indicated the presence of simpler antibodies composed solely of a pair of heavy chains. In dromedaries, and in two-humped Asian camels and South American llamas, about half the antibodies circulating in the blood lack a light chain. Equally surprising, the researchers found that these 'incomplete' antibodies are able to grasp their targets as firmly as normal antibodies do. Genetic engineering techniques were developed to retrieve the target-binding single domain fragments (referred to as Nanobodies®) from the heavy chain-only camelid antibodies. These have affinities for their targets virtually equal to a full classical antibody 10 times their size.

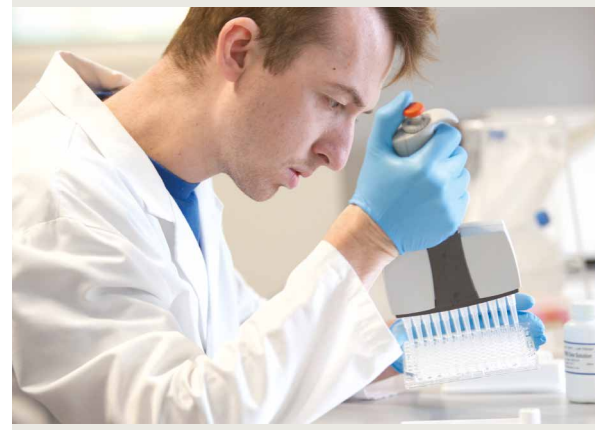
Based on this initial technology, Ablynx NV, a **biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery and development of Nanobodies®**, was established as a spin-off of the VIB and the VUB in 2001. Seed capital of €2 million was provided by the 'Gewestelijke Investeringsmaatschappij Vlaanderen' (GIMV) and by the Biotech Fonds Vlaanderen.

In November 2007, Ablynx successfully completed its initial public offering (IPO) and is now listed on Euronext Brussels under the symbol ABLX. **Ablynx raised a total of €200 million** from both private and public investors.

Ablynx has an extensive patent position in the field of **Nanobodies® for healthcare applications**. Nanobodies® are a novel class of therapeutic proteins based on single-domain antibody fragments, for a range of serious human diseases, including inflammation, hematology, oncology and pulmonary disease. Today, the company has approximately 25 programmes in the pipeline and five Nanobodies® at clinical development stage. Ablynx has ongoing research collaborations and significant partnerships with major pharmaceutical companies, including Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck Serono, Novartis, and Merck & Co. Ablynx is headquartered in Ghent, Flanders, and employs over 250 people.

The unique characteristics of Nanobodies® and continuous innovation have allowed Ablynx, and its partners, to develop differentiated drug products such as:

- both antagonistic and agonistic Nanobodies®
- bispecific Nanobodies®
- Nanobodies® against challenging targets such as ion channels and GPCRs
- Nanobodies® that are administered through alternative routes of administration
- Nanobodies® half-lives which can be modulated from hours to days to weeks



'We are proud to be guardians of the powerful Nanobody® technology for improving the quality of life of patients with many different serious diseases, such as RA, cancer, hematology and viral infections.'

Edwin Moses, CEO