News Release

July 30, 2015

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Announces Application Period for Start-ups

- Candidates can apply until August 14, 2015
- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, donates € 25,000 as a silent participant to the start-ups

Darmstadt, Germany, July 30, 2015 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in healthcare, life science and performance materials, is calling for national and international start-ups to apply for funding of innovative ideas by August 14, 2015.

The Accelerator program is aimed at young companies in the healthcare, life science, performance materials, and IT sectors. The program will run for three months, in which at least three selected start-ups will receive strategic and operational advice, as well as financial support of € 25,000 in the form of a silent participation. The program does not foresee an equity interest in the companies receiving funding, nor influence over their operational and strategic management. The first three start-ups are supposed to move into the newly built, modular Innovation Center in Darmstadt, from September 14, 2015, on.

In addition to providing financial and infrastructure assistance, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, will offer to coach the start-ups also supported by mentors and enable them to participate in several trainings. At the end of the three months, the companies will be part of the start-up network of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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"Building up an alumni network is one of the long-term goals," said Michael Gamber, who heads the Innovation Center of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. "We want to provide a home for our start-ups, also beyond the Accelerator program, and continue to collaborate closely with them."

Interested parties can find more information on this [website](#) and apply until August 14.