

Press Release

Labomar takes stake in the innovative SME Sphera Encapsulation

The company specialises in the research and development of micro- and nano-encapsulation technologies and was founded as a spin-off of the University of Verona's Department of Biotechnology

Labomar Chief Executive Officer and founder Walter Bertin: *"Our growth has always been based on innovation and technological development, which mean we can offer our customers cutting-edge solutions."*

Istrana (TV), July 9, 2024 - Labomar SpA, a leading international nutraceutical company specialising in the research, development, and contract manufacturing of dietary supplements, medical devices, foods for special medical purposes, and cosmetics, has acquired a stake in the innovative SME Sphera Encapsulation Srl, based in Verona.

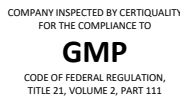
Founded in 2016 as a spin-off of the University of Verona's Department of Biotechnology, and particularly thanks to the intuition of Professor Gianni Zoccatelli and the researchers Martina Vakarelova and Francesca Zanoni, Sphera is the first Italian company entirely dedicated to researching and developing encapsulation technologies applied to functional nutrition, nutraceuticals and agrochemicals. This is a set of processes designed to incorporate one substance into another to protect, isolate, or simply improve the dispersion of the active ingredients.

Labomar will make use of Sphera's technologies to increase the bioavailability of active ingredients at the site of absorption - the point at which they are called upon to act in the body - and promote controlled release, thereby optimising their benefits.

Sphera's drive for innovation is also reflected in its ongoing collaboration with the academic world, where it has its roots, and in its patent activities. The latter represents another value that the company shares with Labomar, which has always been committed to implementing and patenting new technologies.

The commonality between the two enterprises also extends to respect for the environment, which translates into the total sustainability of formulas, and for people, through customer care and attention to well-being.

*"Acquiring a stake in Sphera will allow us to expand the Group's expertise and competitiveness in micro and nano encapsulation, an area which is strategic to our business" stated Labomar Chief Executive Officer and founder **Walter Bertin**. "Labomar's growth has always gone hand in hand with innovation and the research and development of new solutions. It was for these reasons we began discussions with the founders of Sphera, Martina Vakarelova and Francesca Zanoni. A common understanding and vision of purpose were evident from the outset, and I*



am confident that this will result in innovative projects and an acceleration of our technological development”.

*“This partnership recognises the value of our research and the results we have achieved over several years of work” added founders **Martina Vakarelova and Francesca Zanoni**. “We share with Labomar a common vision of innovation and sustainability, which will enable us to integrate our respective expertise and explore new technological frontiers, paving the way for solutions that seek to improve people’s well-being and health.”*

Sphera's skills and experience will serve all of the Group’s companies, in line with the integration plan that Labomar launched in 2023 to maximise synergies between the parent company and its subsidiaries.

The acquisition of Sphera is one of the first transactions involving Marco Malaguti, who joined the Labomar team as Chief Strategy Officer in early 2024. Armed with technical and scientific training and management experience at companies such as GlaxoSmithKline and Biofarma, Mr. Malaguti’s role is to formulate, facilitate and communicate the Group’s strategic initiatives and future goals.

Another recent addition to Labomar is Stefano Pasini, a highly esteemed manager with 20 years’ experience in the pharmaceutical world, first at engineering companies and later at pharmaceutical enterprises such as Thermo Fisher Scientific - Patheon Italia. Mr. Pasini has assumed the role of Group Engineering Director. Both will help strengthen Labomar’s structure, bringing strategic expertise to the Group’s growth.

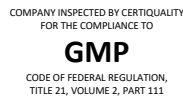
Labomar was assisted in the Sphera acquisition by BModel as Corporate Advisor, while the contractual aspects were handled by the law firm Associato Perissinotto & Agostinacchio. Due diligence in patent matters was performed by Studio Perani, while BDO Italy’s Treviso office handled due diligence regarding tax and subsidised finance. Finally, the firm Legance oversaw contractual issues on behalf of Sphera.

Labomar Profile

Founded by Walter Bertin in Istrana (province of Treviso) in 1998, Labomar is specialised in the development and production of food supplements, medical devices, foods for special medical purposes and cosmetics for third parties. Over more than 25 years, Labomar has built a business model which sets it apart from its competitors and generates value for all stakeholders, providing a comprehensive service and a high quality and productivity standard.

The Company boasts a well structured and cutting-edge research and development department with a particular focus on innovation, a commercial team which reacts quickly to market demands and a high level of product differentiation thanks to its proprietary patents and formulas.

Following the acquisitions of Labomar Canada, the Welcare Group and Labiotre Srl, in 2022 Labomar focused on maximising the synergies among the various companies, pooling resources and expertise to expand its product portfolio, enter new markets and streamline certain processes, including through the best practices brought by each of the Group companies.



After a time on the EGM segment of the stock market, which ended in September 2023, Labomar's shareholder structure now includes Charterhouse, one of the oldest private equity firms operating in Europe. This is once again testament to the Company's attention on overseeing the market and planning its growth.

Labomar whole-heartedly believes in a business system based on sustainability and a real concern for people, the environment and the community. It therefore by 2020 had gained Benefit Company status and later obtained B-Corp™ Certification. This is testament to the Company's decision to join a global movement of enterprises meeting elevated social and environmental impact standards.

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