

Symeres announces leadership evolution

Nijmegen, The Netherlands – December 3, 2024: Symeres, a leading global Contract Research Organization (CRO) and Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO), today announces the evolution of its leadership team ahead of the company’s next phase of development. After nearly three decades at the helm, Symeres’ co-founders, Dr. Eelco Ebbers (CEO) and Dr. Frank Leemhuis (Head of Corporate Development), have decided to step back from their current executive roles.

Symeres is a best-in-class CRO/CDMO, providing advanced drug discovery and development services to the biopharma industry worldwide. The company has seen rapid expansion in recent years, driven by organic growth and strategic acquisitions across Europe and North America, supported by its partnership with Keensight Capital.

Guillaume Jetten, a long-time member of the Executive Board alongside the founders, has been appointed as CEO. Eelco and Frank will remain in their roles until January 2025, with both founders providing ongoing support to Guillaume thereafter to ensure continuity. Eelco will join the Supervisory Board and Frank will be an advisor to the Supervisory Board.

Alongside this management evolution, Symeres is announcing two further appointments to the Executive Board. Edo van Houten will join Symeres as CFO having held similar roles at several CRO and CDMO companies in the Netherlands. Philip Payne will join Symeres as Chief Commercial Officer (CCO). Philip has extensive experience in CCO roles with several CRO and CDMO companies. In addition, Russell Thomas, currently the Head of Business Development, will take on the role of Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), leading on key client and partner relationships and opportunities in scientific development.

Dr. Eelco Ebbers and Dr. Frank Leemhuis, Co-Founders of Symeres, stated: “When we founded Symeres, we aimed to build a company rooted in scientific excellence and dedicated to advancing drug discovery. The journey has been extraordinary, and we are proud of what we have achieved together with our colleagues. The vision remains consistent, but we recognize that Symeres has reached a point in its development where it makes sense for us to step back together so the next generation of leadership can take the company to new heights. We are both pleased to be staying close to Symeres in the future, through our roles as shareholders and as a Board member and an advisor.”

Guillaume Jetten, appointed CEO of Symeres, stated: “We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Eelco and Frank for their outstanding leadership and their invaluable contributions to Symeres. We look forward to continuing to work with them as Board members and advisors respectively. We are also excited that both Philip and Edo have decided to join the company, alongside the promotion of Russell, and about the new executive leadership they will bring as we continue to develop Symeres as a transatlantic CRDMO.”



About Symeres

Symeres is a leading mid-sized transatlantic Contract Research Organization for drug discovery and development needs, with over 600 employees operating from eight sites in the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Finland, and the US. The company offers best-in-class solutions for drug discovery and drug development for small molecules and beyond. Their services span from preclinical hit finding all the way to the delivery of early clinical phase drug substance API. Symeres blends a deep scientific knowledge base with creativity and problem-solving skills to deliver quality results that clients need.

www.symeres.com

Media contacts

Headland

Del Jones - djones@headlandconsultancy.com +44 (0)78 9407 7816