

## PRESS RELEASE

## BioIVT acquires BeCytes Biotechnologies to boost preclinical research in Europe

- The U.S. multinational BioIVT, a global leader in the development of high-quality biological samples and research services for drug and diagnostic development, has acquired the Catalan company BeCytes Biotechnologies, a spin-off of the University of Barcelona (UB) specialising in the production of *in vitro* liver and lung cell models.
- BeCytes was founded thanks to the initiative of a group of professors from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Barcelona – Dr Jordi Alberch, Dr Josep Maria Canals, and Dr Mati Manyalich, all experts in cell therapy – together with Eduard Xapelli and Estephan Arredondo, the result of the synergy between university research and the private sector fostered within the environment of the Barcelona Science Park (PCB-UB).
- The incorporation of BeCytes strengthens BioIVT's commitment to new approach methodologies (NAMs), techniques designed to replace or reduce the use of animals in research through advanced *in vitro* models and technologies. This strategy will help integrate and enhance these capabilities, accelerating biomedical research and global access to more predictive and sustainable models.
- BeCytes will continue operating from its laboratory at the PCB-UB, leveraging its strategic location as a leading centre in southern Europe and contributing to the consolidation of Barcelona as a key European R&D hub in the life sciences.

**Barcelona, 11 December 2025.** The American multinational [BioIVT](#), a global research partner and a provider of biological sample solutions for drug and diagnostic development, has announced **the acquisition of [BeCytes Biotechnologies](#)**, a University of Barcelona (UB) spin-off specialised in the coordination, processing, and distribution of high-quality human tissues and cells for biomedical research. This acquisition opens new growth opportunities for BeCytes, based at the Barcelona Science Park (PCB-UB), enabling the company to expand its international presence and accelerate the development of new cellular models, particularly hepatic and pulmonary ones.

The operation is part of BioIVT's strategy to strengthen key business areas, such as **new approach methodologies (NAMs), which offer ethical alternatives to animal models through *in vitro* techniques** and innovative technologies, as well as absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) studies, which are essential for assessing the safety and efficacy of new drugs.

The integration of BeCytes Biotechnologies **expands global access to high-quality biological samples, particularly from the liver and lung**, combining the expertise of the Catalan company with BioIVT's global presence, while promoting more sustainable, predictive, and innovative research models.

The strategic decision enables BioIVT to address the growing global demand for NAMs in the development of next-generation therapies. According to **Richard Haigh**, CEO of BioIVT, “access to ethically sourced tissues and cells has become more critical than ever due to the rising demand for NAMs and more predictive

research models". The acquisition expands the company's reach, strengthens its portfolio, and provides scientists with the high-quality samples needed to drive innovation and accelerate medical advances.

In addition to supplying essential components for NAMs, BeCytes will play an active role in international research projects, fostering innovation in the life sciences. **Jordi Xapellí**, CEO of BeCytes Biotechnologies, emphasised that "the company's long-standing vision has been to accelerate preclinical research to improve patients' lives through innovation and scientific discovery. BeCytes has long viewed BioIVT as a benchmark of excellence in the field, with the global reach and expertise needed to advance this mission". The collaboration represents an important step toward expanding capabilities and strengthening connections with the international research community.

## Barcelona, a strategic European hub for biotech

"Barcelona is becoming established as one of the main biotechnology centres in Europe, and the PCB-UB is one of its epicentres, with growing investment focused on developing new tools that accelerate preclinical research. This has made the city an increasingly attractive environment for the development of new therapies," said **Estephan Arredondo**, Technical Director of BeCytes.

BeCytes plans to expand its production and team in 2026, incorporating new researchers and enlarging its laboratory space to meet the growing demand for its services. Founded in 2015 as a spin-off of the University of Barcelona (UB), **the company celebrates its 10th anniversary as a consolidated European leader** in the development and distribution of *in vitro* cell models, recognised for its innovation in R&D and its expertise in the production of primary human hepatic cells.

Currently, **international activity accounts for 98% of BeCytes' business volume** in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, the United States, Japan, and France, where it has become a trusted partner for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as academic researchers seeking coordination in the procurement of human tissues and the generation of cellular products.

BeCytes' expertise in hepatocyte isolation, together with its robust tissue supply network, gives access to one of the most active regions in Europe for preclinical research. According to **Christopher Black**, Chief Operating Officer at BioIVT, this ensures that the biomaterials and cells used in both NAM research and scientific services are sourced in accordance with the highest ethical standards and quality levels.

BeCytes will continue operating from its facilities at the PCB-UB, which are expected to be [expanded following the recent inauguration of a new laboratory](#). The cost of the acquisition has not been disclosed.

### ■ About BeCytes Biotechnologies

BeCytes Biotechnologies is a biotechnology company and a spin-off from the University of Barcelona, founded in April 2015. It was created with the aim of managing, coordinating, and providing scientific services to researchers, biotechnology companies, and pharmaceutical laboratories. The company currently operates by offering specialised services in the isolation of human and animal hepatic cells, the supply of cell culture media for *in vitro* research models, access to human tissue for scientific purposes, and associated preclinical services.

## ■ About BioIVT

BioIVT drives more efficient science and accelerates medical advances by providing customised, high-quality biospecimen solutions and research services for the life sciences and diagnostic industries. The company specialises in normal and disease-state samples, including human and animal tissues and preparations, ADME-Tox research products and services, cell and gene therapy products, blood, and other biofluids. Its extensive portfolio of clinical samples directly supports research in precision medicine and the improvement of patient clinical outcomes by combining comprehensive clinical data with donor samples. Through its technical expertise, outstanding customer service, and unprecedented access to biological samples, BioIVT is recognised as a trusted partner among the scientific community for its commitment to Elevating Science®. For more information, visit [www.bioivt.com](http://www.bioivt.com) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

- **Access the official BioIVT press release:** <https://bioivt.com/about/press-releases?entry=BioIVT+Welcomes+BeCytes:+Expanding+Global+Access+to+Ethically+Sourced+Human+Biospecimens+for+Research>

---

### More information:

**Germán Sierra** • Head of Communication • Barcelona Science Park • Tel. +34 608 170 073 - [gsierra@pcb.ub.es](mailto:gsierra@pcb.ub.es)

**Paula Cañal** • Press Officer • Barcelona Science Park • Tel. +34 93 403 46 62 - [pcanal@pcb.ub.es](mailto:pcanal@pcb.ub.es)