

PRESS DOSSIER



YEAR 2011

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Neuron Bio, a leading biotech company in Spain

Neuron Bio specialises in the development of biosolutions for the pharmaceutical, chemical, energy and agro-food industries via its divisions: BioPharma, BioIndustrial and Innofood by Neuron.

The **Neuron BioPharma** research division is devoted to the discovery and assessment of pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals to treat and combat neurodegenerative illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease.

The bioindustrial division, **Neuron BioIndustrial**, is devoted to the development of bioprocesses intended for application in the pharmaceutical, chemical and the biofuels sector.

Innofood by Neuron offers a versatile team with wide experience in the development of complete R&D+i projects for the agro-food industry.

Neuron Bio is a Spanish biotech company

Young, dynamic, and focused on achieving good results

As well as being a pioneer, Neuron Bio stands out for its growth and the internationalization of its projects.



Background of the company

Neuron Bio was founded in 2005 as a spin-off of the research group of Dr. Doctor Fernando Valdivieso, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Autonomous University of Madrid.

During the last three months of 2006 the design and installation of the laboratories and offices in the Business Innovation Centre (BIC) in the Health-Sciences Technology Park (PTS) in Granada were carried out.



On July 1, 2010 Neuron Bio joined the Spanish Alternative Stock Market (MAB) in the growth companies sector (MAB-EE) in order to expand its capital and search for funding for current and future projects. Neuron Bio is the first biotech company to join the alternative market and is the only one that trades on the continuous market rather than according to the price-fixing process. The company has attracted more than 2,600 shareholders in the share-subscription order. Demand for the company's initial share issue was 2.3 times the offer.

In less than five years Neuron Bio has become one of the reference business projects in the Spanish biotech market, ratified by numerous recognitions as well as national and international awards. The latest awards have been the Prize for the Best European Innovative Company in Centres for Innovative Businesses (EBN) and the "Seal for Innovation" awarded by the Association of Spanish Science and Technology Parks and the "Andalusian Prize for Business Excellence" by the Andalusian Regional Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry.

Neuron Bio trades shares on the

Spanish Alternative Stock Market

Neuron was the first biotech company and is the business with the greatest liquidity in this market.



Business model

The Neuron Bio business model is a hybrid one, which combines the dynamics of a company that works on developing bioprocesses with short development cycles, with that of drug discovery and nutraceutical research with higher long-term returns.



Neuron Bio maintains a constant flow of projects to become a leader in the development of natural products intended for the pharmaceutical and industrial bioprocesses market. The main strategic goal is **value creation for clients and shareholders via the development and commercialization** of R&D+i projects.

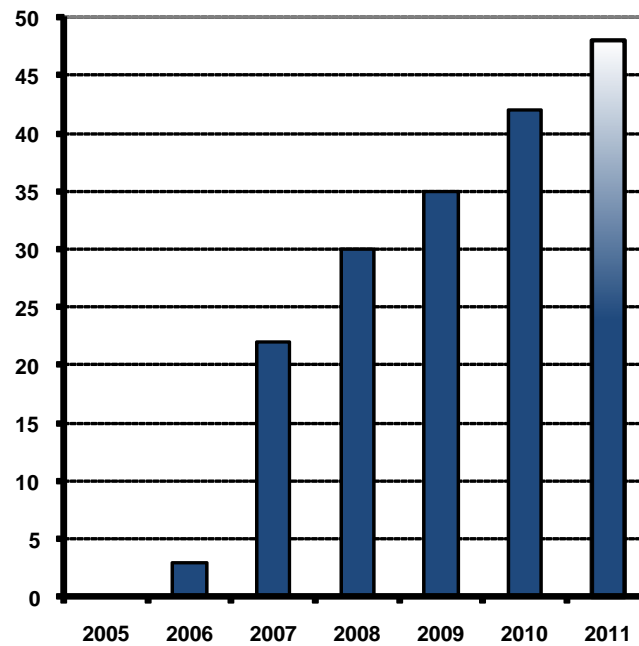


Neuron Bio's team is currently (June 2011) made up of 45 staff members, not only researchers who have studied in prestigious public research centres, but also includes members with a wide experience in business-innovation management. More than 85% of the company staff is directly involved in R&D activities in their daily work in the company's laboratories.

The management team has wide experience and is led by Professor Fernando Valdivieso, a prestigious expert on neurodegenerative diseases at an international level.

Neuron has recently appointed an Advisory Scientific Committee, including important figures such as Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Professor Ana Frank-García, Professor Arnold L. Demain, Dr. Jesús Benavides and Dr. Miguel A. Moreno, with the intention of strengthening its scientific excellence.

GROWTH OF COMPANY STAFF



In just five years the
company has grown

**from 3 to 45
employees.**

More than 85% of the
company's staff are directly
involved in R&D activities.

Board;

Chairman; Dr. Fernando Valdivieso Amate

CEO; Dr. Javier Velasco Álvarez

CSO BioPharma division; Dr. Javier S. Burgos Muñoz

CSO BioIndustrial division; Dr. José Luis Adrio Fondevila

CSO Innofood by Neuron division: Dr. Jose Maria Fernandez Ginés

CFO; Ms. Consuelo García Liria

Head of Business and Development; Ms. Elena M^a Requena Rodríguez

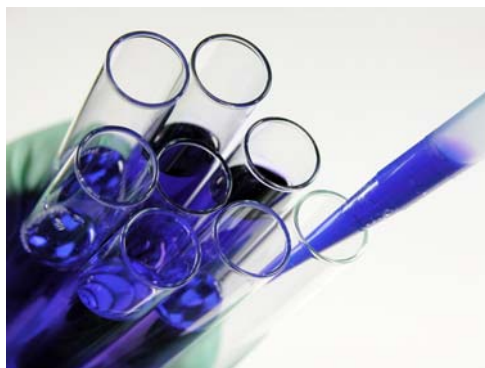
Neuron BioPharma technological platforms

Neuron BioPharma is working on the discovery and development of compounds which help to prevent or treat various neurodegenerative diseases.

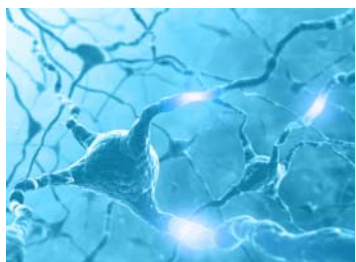
Research on Alzheimer's disease is the main aim of this division, which concentrates on understanding the implications of the regulation of cholesterol in the brain. Thanks to the development of these studies Neuron Bio has become a pioneer at worldwide level in this sector and has a unique knowledge of the mechanisms that regulate cholesterol levels in the brain as well as the effects they have on the development of neurodegenerative diseases.

Neuron Bio approaches this kind of disease from the prevention angle, focusing on the early stages of the disease. This strategy is a key factor for Neuron and distinguishes its research lines from those of other companies working in the field. All existing treatments on the market related to diseases such as Alzheimer's try to reverse the cognitive deterioration once the disease has been diagnosed, a goal which has proved elusive to date. Neuron Bio focuses on preventive treatments, which avoid this deterioration in the first place.

The BioPharma division is divided into two study platforms covering all the development stages before the compounds reach clinical trials.



Neuron BioPharma works
on **early stages**
of
ALZHEIMER'S
DISEASE by
searching for compounds
which prevent the disease



techniques.

Drug Discovery

Neuron BioPharma uses neuron and hepatic human cells in the search for chemical entities with neuroprotective and hypocholesterolemic (cholesterol lowering) activity by using robotic

Pre-clinical development

The aim of this platform is to demonstrate the bio-safety and efficacy of drugs in development for use with animal models.

Neuron BioPharma analyses the bio-safety of its compounds and any possible adverse effects they may cause in research models. The company uses cell cultures as well as zebrafish, whose characteristics allow us to rule out quickly those compounds that present any toxic effect. All these studies are carried out under the strictest international norms with techniques that minimize the use of experimentation on animals.



Neuron BioPharma carries out compound efficacy studies in various animal models of increasing complexity: zebrafish, mice and rats. The company's resources include a wide range of techniques for studying the effects of the various substances to be evaluated on the phenomenon of neurodegeneration and ageing.

Disease models have been developed which reproduce some of the main events of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other neurological diseases such as Huntington's and epilepsy.

Moreover, the Neuron Bio research team analyses what happens with the compound from the moment of administration to its total elimination from the body (pharmacokinetics) and its biochemical and physiological effects (pharmacodynamics).

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Behaviour and memory

To complement the studies already described Neuron BioPharma also uses techniques for the effective analysis of its compounds on memory, behaviour and the mobility of the animals with which it works. It also possesses the latest technologies available for animal behavioural studies, all of which are applied by a professional team of experts in this field.

Neuron Bio uses

**exclusive
research
models**

such as the zebrafish
to determine the
neuroprotection bio-safety
of its drugs.

Neuron Bio concentrate its studies on

**the processes
before the
beginning of
neurodegeneration**

by searching for biomarkers that warn about the risk of the beginning of the process and the development of drugs to slow it down

Clinical development

Before its approval any new drug has to be tested on humans. These studies are required to demonstrate its safety in both healthy and sick humans and its effectiveness for various types of patients.

This platform also carries out translational projects, aimed at accumulating and transferring information between the clinical and basic areas. In Neuron BioPharma these studies concentrate on the development of biomarkers that indicate the beginning of neurodegenerative processes.

Neuron BioIndustrial

MICROBIOTOOLS[®] by Neuron PLATFORM

MICROBIOTOOLS[®] by Neuron is a technological platform focused on the complete development of bioprocesses that was created by Neuron BioIndustrial on the basis of its exclusive collection of over 8.000 micro-organisms (bacteria, fungi, yeasts and microalgae) isolated from extreme ecosystems.

Among the achievements of MICROBIOTOOLS[®] by Neuron are:

DRUGS

Neuron Bio has patented an innovative biological procedure for the production of statins via a micro-organism developed by the company.

Statins are compounds used for the treatment of high levels of cholesterol in blood and are the drug group with the highest volume of sales throughout the entire world. The new production process developed by Neuron BioIndustrial is completely biological and thus lessens the need for the use of solvents and other contaminating elements.

MICROBIOIL[®]

MicroBioil[®] is a biotech solution that allows us to **increase the productivity of a biodiesel plant by 2-3%** by the conversion of raw glycerine, the main by-product of biodiesel plants, into new raw material.

Raw glycerine is consumed quickly by selected micro-organisms chosen by Neuron Bio. Later these micro-organisms convert glycerine into oil, which can then be used as raw material for the production for more biodiesel.

Both the process and the micro-organisms used have been fully developed by Neuron Bio Industrial and are protected by patent.

Neuron BioIndustrial offers this technology in the form of out-licensing agreements and technical consultancy contracts.



Neuron BioIndustrial
develops processes involving

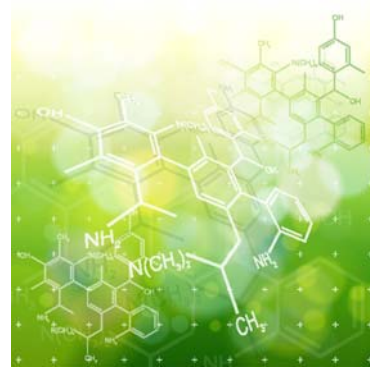
**bioplastics,
biofuels,
and drugs**

by working as an external R&D
department for industrial
companies.

TRIBIOPLAST®

Neuron BioIndustrial is at the development stage of a procedure for producing bioplastics from industrial by-products.

These biopolymers are especially innovative in being both biocompatible and biodegradable, because of which they are very useful in the production of medical devices such as sutures, catheters etc.

**SERVICES FOR CLIENTS:**

The technologies fine-tuned by Neuron Bio together with the know-how acquired during the development of its in-house projects are offered to clients working in such areas of the market as agro-foods, chemical pharmaceuticals and biofuels.

Work undertaken according to an individual client's requirements is based on the use of our MICROBIOTOOLS® platform because in this way we can look quickly and efficiently for the ideal microorganisms to develop processes that will allow us to obtain value-added products from waste or by-products. We also offer studies into the effects of these compounds as well as any possible adverse reactions they might cause.

In this way Neuron Bio helps to improve economic profitability whilst avoiding the environmental impact caused by already existing products. The bioprocess is developed as far as the pilot stage and includes a study into its technical-economic viability at industrial level.

Innofood by Neuron

Innofood by Neuron is the result of a strategic alliance between the two companies Innofood I+D+I and Neuron Bio, set up with the intention of creating an innovative structure to manage and develop jointly I&D+i projects for the agro-foods industry on a direct, personal basis focused upon results.



Innofood by Neuron was set up in April 2011 as a new area of the company specialising in the agro-food industry.

This new specialist area arose from the alliance between Innofood and Neuron Bio.

The offer of biotechnological services in this area covers some of the following processes: the development and optimization of ingredients, the valuation of by-products, and safety and viability studies in cell cultures and animal models. Innofood by Neuron will also develop new products and design studies into the shelf life and organoleptic qualities of foodstuffs.

Patents

Neuron Bio's patent portfolio is made up of developments achieved by its divisions and exclusive licences granted by research centres, most of which concern tools and techniques used in the search for and discovery of neuroprotective compounds. Thus at present the company has taken out patents on 9 compounds with proven activity against neurodegenerative diseases and two novel processes for the synthesis of compounds of interest by microorganisms: statins and second-generation biodiesel.

Press contact

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