



Press Release from SynBioVen – London, 18 July 2022

SynBioVen (SBV) is being launched today to invest in British Synthetic Biology with an investment of £20m from Sir David Harding. SBV has a strategic partnership with SynbiCITE, the UK National Centre for the Industrial Translation of Synthetic Biology, at Imperial College London. SBV will fund SynbiCITE's research programme with £5.5m over the next five years.

Sir David who will Co-Chair SBV is a leading science philanthropist and businessman. He said:

"Our hope is that SynBioVen will invest successfully in British Synthetic Biology companies and that the profits will be recycled into the Company's future activities."

The Company will be Co-Chaired by the Rt Hon Lord David Willetts FRS who served as Minister for Universities and Science from 2010-2014. Synthetic Biology was one of the eight great technologies which he identified as Minister. He said:

"Britain is one of the world leaders in Synthetic Biology, one of the most important and exciting new general purpose technologies. It has the capacity to feed us, fuel us and heal us. The challenge is successfully to apply and commercialise the research emerging from our university laboratories. We hope SBV will help make that happen. We will be making early-stage investments in promising projects emerging from the network which has SynbiCITE at its heart. We will be investing over £1m a year in SynbiCITE to help sustain this network."

SBV's Board also includes Professor Richard Kitney and Professor Paul Freemont, the Co-Directors of SynbiCITE. SBV will work closely with the scientists developing specific applications of Synthetic Biology and will make early-stage investments heavily influenced by assessments from the scientists themselves. It will focus particularly on investing in companies with a clear mission to use Synthetic Biology for the public good. The fashion industry for example is currently imposing heavy environmental costs notably through carbon dioxide emissions: Synthetic Biology can green the fashion industry.

Professor Paul Freemont said: "I am very excited by the launch of SynBioVen which will not only accelerate the UK to become a leading innovator in the Synthetic Biology revolution but also in the development of applications for a sustainable future".

Professor Richard Kitney said: "The launch of SynBioVen represents an important step in the development of the UK's Synthetic Biology/Engineering Biology industry. The new venture will help support the translation of research from leading universities and the growth of start-ups and SMEs in the sector."

SBV is a great example of how universities and business funders can work together to develop new technologies to make the world a better place.