



## **F-star appoints Tolga Hassan as Chief Financial Officer**

*Role to implement financial structure for fundraising, business development, and product licensing*

Cambridge, UK, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013. F-star, an oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company, has appointed Tolga Hassan as CFO.

Tolga joins F-star from Johnson Matthey, the FTSE-100 specialty chemicals company, where he held various positions over 13 years, including Business and Corporate Development and most recently Division Finance Director. In this latter role, Tolga managed a global finance and IT team, which covered business units across Europe, North America, and Asia with 1,800 employees. Tolga brings with him extensive experience of acquisitions, divestments, joint ventures, corporate and venture financing, and licensing.

"I would like to welcome Tolga to F-star, at this very exciting time in our company's history," said John Haurum, CEO of F-star. "Over the past 18 months, F-star has advanced its internal and external development pipelines, and recently announced a new, asset-centric corporate structure, F-star Alpha, that will simplify both investment into the company, and partnering of our products. The experience Tolga brings will be very important as we look to leverage the success of the company utilising our new asset-centric financial structure."

"F-star is a well-positioned, leading biotechnology company in developing novel antibodies," said Tolga Hassan. "The combination of technology, management and corporate structure opens a wide variety of opportunities to the Company. I am looking forward to working with the F-star team, applying the finance and transactional experience I have gained over the years, to support the business as it enters its next major phase of growth."

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### **F-star**

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Notes to Editors:

**About F-star**

F-star is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to developing novel bispecific antibody products that provide a significant improvement over the current standard of care. Given its strong patent position, it is the only biopharmaceutical company with the ability to create and develop Fcab™ antibody fragments, and bispecific antibodies, by modifying the constant region of an antibody. In particular, F-star's Modular Antibody Technology™ enables rapid discovery and development of bispecific antibodies by introducing additional binding sites to the constant region of an antibody and offers unprecedented ease in the development and manufacturing of bispecific monoclonal antibodies. Using the Modular Antibody Technology™, F-star generates bispecific antibodies (mAb<sup>2</sup>™) that possess the favourable characteristics of traditional monoclonal antibodies, without the production challenges often associated with other antibody formats. F-star is now applying its proprietary technology to the development of a pipeline of product candidates.

Since its founding in 2006 the company has secured funding and support from leading VC investors: Aescap Venture, Atlas Venture, Novo Ventures and TVM Capital; as well as from renowned strategic corporate investors: Merck Serono Ventures, MP Healthcare Venture Management and SR One. The company has major alliances with Boehringer Ingelheim and Merck Serono, each covering multiple targets. In October 2013 an asset-centric vehicle ("F-star Alpha Ltd.") was established to create greater commercial and financial flexibility for F-star, the investors, and future partners. F-star was selected by the industry newsletter FierceBiotech as one of the Fierce 15 winners in 2011, designating it as one of the most promising private biotechnology companies in the industry. F-star currently employs over 30 people at its research site in Cambridge, UK.

For more information visit [www.f-star.com](http://www.f-star.com)