

Armed Cell Therapeutics Acquires Armed CAR-T Portfolio from Lakefront, with Lead Programs in Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and Small Cell Lung Cancer

- Armed Cell Therapeutics acquires from Lakefront Biotherapeutics NV a preclinical portfolio of multi-targeting, armed CAR-T programs originating from technology acquired from and research undertaken by the team from the acquisition of AboundBio by Lakefront Biotherapeutics NV (formerly Galapagos NV)
- The two lead programs focus on non-Hodgkin lymphoma and small cell lung cancer
- The company is led by Paul Stoffels, MD, as interim CEO, with John Mellors, MD, as Chief Scientific Officer and Peter Verhaeghe, former Chair of the Board of argenx and legal counsel. All three leaders will serve on the Board of Directors, with Dr. Stoffels as Chairman
- Lakefront receives an upfront payment and is eligible for milestones and royalties

Brussels, Belgium, October 14, 2026, 22:30 CEST — Armed Cell Therapeutics BV (“Armed Cell”), a Belgium-based biotechnology company developing next-generation armed CAR-T therapies for cancer, today announced that it has acquired from Lakefront Biotherapeutics NV (Euronext & NASDAQ: LKFT), formerly Galapagos NV, a portfolio of selected preclinical CAR-T assets. The two lead programs focus on non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and small cell lung cancer (SCLC).

The acquired preclinical portfolio comprises multi-targeting and armed CAR-T constructs built on fully human binders and armed with human proteins. They are designed to improve the potency and persistence of CAR-T cells and reduce cancer cell resistance in hematological and solid tumors of high unmet need. An experienced research team in the US and Europe is now advancing the programs.

In light of this transaction, Lakefront receives an upfront payment and is eligible to receive regulatory and commercial milestones and royalties.

Built to overcome the limits of today’s CAR-T

CAR-T therapies have transformed the treatment of some blood cancers. Yet many patients relapse from lack of CAR-T cell persistence, CAR-T exhaustion or emergence of resistant cancer cells. Solid cancers are especially hard for CAR-T cells to penetrate and function in hostile tumor microenvironments. Armed CAR-T cells are engineered with additional payloads to strengthen and sustain their anti-tumor activity, with the goal of deeper and more durable responses. Targeting more than one cancer antigen is designed to make it harder for cancer cells to escape.

The lead programs address two high-need clinical settings. In NHL, relapse after current CAR-T therapy remains common. SCLC is an aggressive tumor with few effective treatment options.

“This acquisition gives us a strong scientific starting point and a team that knows these programs inside out. We thank Lakefront for the constructive acquisition process. Our focus now is to move these programs forward to patients with high unmet medical needs who would

benefit from better treatment options,” said Peter Verhaeghe, Board member of Armed Cell Therapeutics.

“Our armed CAR-T programs are designed to overcome the limits of current cell therapies, from relapse in lymphoma to the suppressive environment of solid tumors,” said John Mellors, MD, Chief Scientific Officer of Armed Cell Therapeutics. “Our discovery and early development efforts are up and running with an experienced team of researchers, scientists and leaders, and we are working to advance these programs towards the clinic.”

“We have differentiated science and a team with deep experience in this field. Our focus now is to bring these programs to the clinic with speed and scientific rigor,” said Paul Stoffels, MD, interim CEO and Chair of Armed Cell Therapeutics.

Leadership and Board of Directors

- Paul Stoffels, MD, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board
- John Mellors, MD, Chief Scientific Officer and Board member
- Peter Verhaeghe, Board member and legal counsel
- Emmanuel Casier, Chief Legal Officer

They are supported by an experienced team across research, CMC, finance and operations.

About Armed Cell Therapeutics

Armed Cell Therapeutics is a biotechnology company developing next-generation armed CAR-T therapies for cancer. Its lead programs focus on non-Hodgkin lymphoma, where relapse after current CAR-T therapy remains common, and small cell lung cancer, an aggressive tumor with few effective treatment options. The company is headquartered in Belgium, with operations in the Netherlands, research and pre-clinical operations in Pittsburgh, USA, and early development CAR-T cell therapy activities in Europe, Asia, and the United States. For more information, visit www.armedcelltx.com.

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