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Zwingenberg (Germany), July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **Additional CRISPR Genome Editing Nucleases Identified**

- **Around 2,000 Class 2 CRISPR Nucleases identified**
- **Selective additional IP protection filed**
- **Partnering discussions started**

BRAIN Biotech AG has identified around 2,000 so far untapped additional Class 2 CRISPR Nucleases using metagenomics sequencing which could be deployed for genome editing. With a focused investment approach the company has so far analyzed a limited number in detail and has already filed a first IP protection for 15 nucleases. BRAIN recently selected and announced a prime candidate, the so-called BRAIN Engineered Cas Nuclease (BEC), which is already applied in different organisms and projects.

In addition, the company has started initial partnering discussions and is open for further partners to accelerate the detailed screening of its further promising CRISPR Nuclease candidates.

Dr. Paul Scholz, heading the Cas nuclease discovery program at BRAIN Biotech AG states: “The now identified Class 2 CRISPR Nucleases will give us a strong basis to develop a broader diversity of genome editing tools. Science requires a choice of adequate tools for different applications. Genome editing is a very exciting enabling technology for many biotechnology innovations. We are very pleased that BRAIN can now make a strong contribution to the evolution of genome editing.”

Dr. Michael Krohn, Head R&D at BRAIN Biotech AG says: “We are expanding our footprint in genome editing. This will enable us to secure a broader IP position and to diversify our toolset. Together with partners we will accelerate this development and mobilize significantly larger financial and scientific resources. We are very excited to jointly advance in genome editing with our future partners.”

### **About BRAIN**

BRAIN Biotech AG (“BRAIN”) is a leading European specialist in industrial biotechnology. As a technology provider and developer of bio-based products and solutions for nutrition, health and the environment, the company supports the biologization of industry and contributes to a more sustainable economy. BRAIN is the parent company of the BRAIN Group. Two pillars form BRAIN Group’s business: The BioScience segment includes contract research for renowned industrial partners as well as an incubator for the development of the company’s own highly innovative products. In the BioIndustrial segment, the company focuses on specialty business in the production and refinement of enzymes, microorganisms and bioactive natural products and the respective distribution.

The BRAIN Group maintains its own diverse collection of natural resources: the BRAIN Bioarchive comprises microorganisms, genetic material and natural substances. Based on this collection and with a comprehensive technology portfolio, BRAIN addresses technological challenges and develops bio-based products and solutions that are already successfully employed in the industry. The BRAIN Group has its own production facilities in Germany, UK and the US, which together with the associated biotechnological production expertise, complete the value chain within the Group.

As a Participant of the United Nations Global Compact, BRAIN Biotech AG is committed to aligning strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals.

Since its IPO in 2016, BRAIN Biotech AG has been listed in the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (ISIN DE0005203947 / WKN 520394).

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