

Press Release

Düsseldorf/Münster, March 17, 2026

NRW.BANK invests in biotech start-up from Dortmund

3.5 million euros for new approaches in cancer therapy

NRW.BANK has invested 3.5 million euros in the Dortmund-based biotechnology start-up iDEL Therapeutics via its NRW.Venture venture capital fund. The promotional bank's investment formed part of a seed financing round, in which the young company raised a total of 9 million euros. iDEL Therapeutics is developing an innovative method to increase the effectiveness of cancer therapies whilst simultaneously reducing their side effects.

"iDEL Therapeutics' technology has the potential to improve cancer therapy – and thus the treatment of a disease that represents one of the greatest medical challenges facing our society," says **Johanna Antonie Tjaden-Schulte, member of the Managing Board of NRW.BANK**. "As the promotional bank for North Rhine-Westphalia, we are actively supporting ideas and technologies that improve people's lives. At the same time, we are strengthening North Rhine-Westphalia as a centre for life sciences through our investments."

New approach for more targeted cancer therapies

iDEL Therapeutics' approach is known as a drug delivery system. This area of biomedical technology researches how active substances can be precisely transported to their intended locations in the body and released at the right place. iDEL Therapeutics' solution specifically targets cancer cells and delivers active substances directly to them, leaving healthy cells unharmed. This approach reduces side effects while improving the effectiveness of cancer treatment.

The biotech start-up was established in September 2025 and is based at the Biomedicine Centre Dortmund. iDEL Therapeutics will use the funding from the current financing round to further develop its technology and lay the groundwork for clinical evaluation.

In addition to NRW.Venture, Gründerfonds Ruhr and KHAN Technology Transfer Fund-II also participated in the financing round, with BioMedVC acting as lead investor.

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For more information, visit www.nrwbank.de/en/foundernrwventure

Media contact:

Caroline Fischer, Press Officer

Phone: +49 211 91741-1847, e-mail: presse@nrwbank.de

About NRW.Venture

NRW.Venture is the venture capital fund of NRW.BANK. In this way, the promotional bank for North Rhine-Westphalia responds to the scarce supply of financing for young, innovative and often technology-oriented companies, which often do not have sufficient access to loans. Their main asset is a new market idea – which is why their chances of success are often difficult to assess. NRW.Venture invests up to 15 million euros of equity in such start-ups over several financing rounds – typically from the second round onwards – together with private sector investors, with NRW.BANK taking a minority stake for a period of three to seven years. But the Bank not only provides capital – an experienced team is the key to joint success. NRW.Venture’s investment professionals have many years of venture capital experience, often complemented by technology and start-up experience, and use their expertise and network to ensure that start-ups have the best chances of success.

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