

**S00861560** - Scrip

### **Bicoll breaks even and looks to new projects**

The private Sino-German bioventure, Bicoll, has moved to its first annual after-tax profit after three years of operations, helped by several agreements with pharmaceutical industry and research institution customers.

The group provides a range of combinatorial chemistry, structural biology/chemistry, screening and lead identification/optimisation services related to compounds isolated from rare Asian natural plant resources. The positive cash flow will also allow it to progress a number of in-house preclinical projects, which include potential products for cancer, type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and tuberculosis, managing director Dr Kai Lamottke said.

Bicoll's main products include a library of optimised small molecules derived from more than 2,000 extracts of plants from the Indo-Burma region for use in drug discovery and development. These bioactive compounds have widely diverse structures and can be customised to interact with target proteins. The company also offers plant fractions, pure isolates and related compound sets and has developed proprietary technologies to optimise these for high-throughput screening/assaying and to identify potential "troublemakers" in terms of poor ADME/toxicology profile.

The Munich-based venture has an R&D facility in Shanghai and is working with a range of academic and research institutions, including the Institute of Biosciences and Technology within Texas A&M University and the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica. It says it is also planning to expand its external research collaborations.

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