



## **Merck KGaA acquires Qlight Nanotech**

*Qlight Nanotech's staff will remain at the Company's site at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and will function as the research base for Merck for quantum-materials for the display and lighting industry*

Jerusalem, Israel, July 2, 2015 – Yissum Research Development Company Ltd., the Technology Transfer Company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, announced today that its spin-off company, Qlight Nanotech, developer of products based on semiconductor nano-crystals for use in flat panel displays and efficient LED lighting, is being acquired by Merck KGaA. Merck had already invested twice in QLight Nanotech, in 2012 and 2013, and after finalizing the acquisition will hold 100% of the Company. Financial details were not disclosed.

Qlight Nanotech staff will remain at the Company's site, located in the Edmond J. Safra Campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which will become the quantum materials research hub for the Performance Materials business sector of Merck. Qlight Nanotech was founded in 2009, and since the beginning worked closely with Merck in a joint research program supported by the Israeli Office of the Chief Scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Industry as part of its Multinational Company Cooperation Program. In addition, Qlight Nanotech was supported throughout the years by the Jerusalem Development Authority and the Jerusalem Municipality.

"Today's news of our investment in Qlight Nanotech fit perfectly into our innovation strategy as innovations are our lifeblood," said **Karl-Ludwig Kley, CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board of Merck.** "Like the companies here in Israel we at Merck never stand still but are always researching, asking, finding, tinkering, and developing. And because we invest in new materials and technologies like the one in Qlight Nanotech we are continuously able to develop exciting new display products that meet the needs of our customers around the world."

Qlight Nanotech develops nanocrystals with unique optical properties for numerous applications, including technologies that can revolutionize the mechanism of action of flat panel displays. Its innovative film technology for LCD displays uses unique nanocrystals for reducing energy consumption while significantly improving the color quality. The technology can nearly double the battery run time in mobile devices, and reduce by almost half the energy consumption of TV sets. Qlight Nanotech's film also improves the

color quality of the display thus dramatically upgrading the user's viewing experience.

**Yaacov Michlin, CEO of Yissum and Chairman of Qlight Nanotech Board of Directors**, said, "We are pleased with the completion of Qlight's acquisition by a world leader such as Merck. The combination of breakthrough innovation from the lab of Prof. Uri Banin and the involvement of a company at such a scale as Merck, a global leader in the display market, led to Qlight's success. This is an important milestone for Qlight, which was the first start-up company to operate within the Safra campus of the Hebrew University. Qlight's 20 employees will remain at the company's site in Jerusalem, which will enable to preserve the close ties with the Center for Nanotechnology of the Hebrew University, and with Prof. Banin's research group. This is an excellent example of Yissum's vision, to translate academic innovation into novel products while creating employment opportunities in Jerusalem and Israel."

#### **About Qlight Nanotech**

Qlight Nanotech Ltd. was founded in 2009 and is developing materials and applications based on semiconductor nanocrystals. Qlight Nanotech's leading technological team has significant expertise and innovation in nanoscience and nanotechnology, aimed at applications in general lighting, display panels, and more. The company, led by CEO Shlomo Amir, is based on technology developed by Professor Uri Banin, the scientific founder of Qlight Nanotech. Professor Banin from the Institute of Chemistry and the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology at the Hebrew University, specializes in chemistry and physics of nanomaterials and is a leading scientist worldwide in the field of nanotechnology. Additional information about the company can be found on [www.qlightnano.com](http://www.qlightnano.com)

#### **About Yissum**

Yissum Research Development Company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Ltd. was founded in 1964 to protect and commercialize the Hebrew University's intellectual property. Products based on Hebrew University technologies that have been commercialized by Yissum currently generate \$2 Billion in annual sales. Ranked among the top technology transfer companies in the world, Yissum has registered over 8,500 patents covering 2,500 inventions; has licensed out 750 technologies and has spun out 96 companies. Yissum's business partners span the globe and include companies such as Syngenta, Monsanto, Roche, Novartis, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Intel, Teva and many more. For further information please visit [www.yissum.co.il](http://www.yissum.co.il).

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