

## Limburg Ventures II

The availability of venture capital is an essential prerequisite for the recruitment of companies for both the Chemelot Campus and the Maastricht Health Campus. This is the very life-blood of businesses. Several studies have shown that business people find it more difficult to obtain funding for innovation activities, which always involve a greater degree of risk. The result is fewer rapidly growing companies, knowledge that remains untapped, and a lack of valorization (turning innovations into business). This prompted the Province of Limburg and DSM to set up a new Venture Capital Fund: Limburg Ventures II (LV II).

Limburg Ventures II is managed by a professional and independent board, under the supervision and direction of an Investment Company. In addition, there is the usual Supervisory Board. LV II is a strictly public-private fund. Limburg Ventures II will be launched with a capital of 50 million euros, from backers such as the Province of Limburg, NV Industriebank LIOF, DSM Nederland BV, and Rabobank Westelijke Mijnstreek. The developments on these campuses are fully in keeping with the government's Key Sector Policy, which means that they are eligible for support from its SME+ Innovation Fund. In this way, the founders expect to be able to add at least another 30 million euros to the fund's starting capital.

Limburg Ventures II is a "revolving fund", which means that, in theory, the venture capital will be repaid. The fund has an expected return of seven percent per annum from interest, dividends, and proceeds from the sale of participations. During the first nine years, Limburg Ventures II expects to invest sums ranging from 250 thousand euros to 8 million euros. Here, the focus is mainly on Chemelot.

The fund will focus on companies that develop, manufacture, and market physical products, and on companies that provide services. These correspond to the innovative businesses in Chemelot's target segments. Limburg Ventures II will invest in early-stage companies, while also focusing on growing companies, and more established, expanding companies. These are companies that have passed the start-up stage, which are now focusing on perfecting the technology and on its commercialization.

The two sectors involved will be Materials and Life Sciences. More specifically, there will be a link to the Chemelot Campus Consortium's five target segments: Performance Materials, Biomedical Materials, Biotechnology/biosynthesis, Biobased Chemicals and Materials, and R&D Enabling Technologies.

Participation in a venture capital fund is not without its risks. While the expected return of seven percent is based on empirical data, it is still an estimate.