

**LOTTE HOLDINGS Healthcare & Bio-Pharmaceutical CVC  
Invests in Linqmed Inc., a Radiopharmaceutical R&D Company**

LOTTE HOLDINGS CO., LTD. (Headquarters: Tokyo; President and Representative Director: Genichi Tamatsuka; hereinafter "LOTTE HOLDINGS") has made an investment in the Series B funding round of Linqmed Inc. (Headquarters: Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture; hereinafter "Linqmed") through its Healthcare & Biopharmaceuticals CVC (hereinafter "HB-CVC").



Linqmed is a research-driven company engaged in the development of radiopharmaceuticals, with the mission of bringing innovative "visible" cancer therapies to patients as early as possible. The company is developing therapeutic and diagnostic agents using the copper radioisotope  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ . Its lead asset,  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ -ATSM, entered a Phase III clinical trial in June 2024 for recurrent and refractory malignant glioma—one of the most difficult malignant brain tumors to treat. Through this financing, Linqmed aims to accelerate the clinical trial and advance the establishment of a supply system for the product's market launch.

The LOTTE Group has positioned healthcare and biopharmaceuticals as one of its key new growth strategy areas and launched the HB-CVC in December 2024. Linqmed is boldly tackling areas of high unmet medical need in oncology through radiopharmaceuticals, a field that has attracted significant global attention in recent years. The LOTTE Group will continue to support promising entrepreneurs and startups worldwide, contributing to the realization of a healthier society.

**Development of Radiopharmaceuticals Using  $^{64}\text{Cu}$** 

Conventional radiation therapy and chemotherapy for cancer have faced challenges including insufficient therapeutic effects and significant side effects on healthy cells. To address these issues, Linqmed is developing radiopharmaceuticals that use the

radioactive isotope  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ .

In addition to beta radiation traditionally used in radiotherapy,  $^{64}\text{Cu}$  emits Auger electrons—a unique form of radiation that enables highly effective cancer cell destruction with high energy. Moreover, because  $^{64}\text{Cu}$  also emits positrons, it allows for non-invasive confirmation of drug accumulation in tumors using positron emission tomography (PET) imaging during treatment. Furthermore,  $^{64}\text{Cu}$  can be conjugated with a wide range of molecules that have high affinity for cancer, enabling the continuous development of diverse, cancer-specific therapeutic agents.

Previous treatments for malignant brain tumors have been ineffective for several reasons, one of which is that the tumor interior becomes hypoxic, or low in oxygen, leading to treatment resistance. In response, Linqmed researched and developed  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ -ATSM, a compound that accumulates in hypoxic tumor cells and exhibits high therapeutic efficacy. Non-clinical studies using cancer cell line transplant models and others have demonstrated that  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ -ATSM suppresses the proliferation of hypoxic malignant brain tumors and improves survival rates. Currently, a Phase III physician-initiated clinical trial is underway. This trial marks the first domestic clinical trial for a domestically produced radiopharmaceutical, and its early practical application is anticipated.

#### **About LOTTE HOLDINGS CO., LTD.**

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Starting with its core confectionery and ice cream businesses, LOTTE HOLDINGS has expanded into a wide range of business fields, including professional baseball team management, real estate, finance, corporate venture capital, hotels, and healthcare. Looking ahead, LOTTE HOLDINGS aims to drive further innovation in its core food business while pursuing new growth opportunities by leveraging business synergies between Japan and South Korea.

The LOTTE Group began its operations in 1948 with the manufacturing and selling of

chewing gum in Tokyo, Japan. Today, with headquarters in both Japan and South Korea, the LOTTE Group operates across more than 30 countries and regions worldwide, spanning businesses including food, retail, finance, biopharmaceuticals, healthcare, data centers, hotels and resorts, entertainment, and construction. Guided by its vision as a "Lifetime Value Creator," the LOTTE Group is committed to delivering sustainable value throughout every moment of people's lives.

### **About Linqmed**

Linqmed Inc. is a research-driven company developing radiopharmaceuticals with the goal of rapidly delivering innovative "visible" cancer therapies to society, in pursuit of its mission, "Link for Life — Connecting Cutting-Edge Science and Medicine." The company was founded based on research conducted at the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology and is developing therapeutic and diagnostic agents using the copper radioisotope  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ .

For more information, please visit <https://www.linqmed.co.jp/>.