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MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT – A first in Australian equity crowdfunding. The iQ Group Global launching Capital Labs.

iQX Limited (NSX:iQX), part of The iQ Group Global, today announced Capital Labs, a business of its subsidiary company, is one of the first ASIC-authorised equity crowdfunding platforms in Australia.

Capital Labs (capitalabs.com.au) is a first to market platform, dedicated to biotechnology and life science equity crowdfunding investments.

Globally, equity crowdfunding is fast becoming the leading source of funds for startups and innovative companies. "On one hand this presents an exciting new funding option for Australian startup ventures. On the other, it unlocks systematic investment opportunities for retail investors, that historically have been missing from startup venture funding" said Dr George Syrmalis, Founder and CEO, The iQ Group Global. "In any biotechnology enterprise, tomorrow's challenge is to create new medicines that can prevent incurable diseases; however today's challenge is to get to tomorrow. Equity crowdfunding certainly enables today's challenge".

Until now, equity crowdfunding was non-existent and therefore startup investment was a closed door, minimum disclosure, high-risk process. "Capital raising by listing on public exchanges can be costly and prohibitive for many startup companies," Dr Syrmalis said. "We are talking with various biotech startups who will benefit significantly from access to cost-effective funding through equity crowdfunding to develop their potentially lifesaving technologies. Further to providing cashflow, enabling the company to achieve its research and development goals, there is the added significant benefit of increased preparedness for a future listing with a stock exchange. Companies completing successful equity crowdfunding campaigns could realise wider investor spread, executive management that is accustomed to public corporate governance principles and a higher level of transparency in the company's operations."

Dr Syrmalis believes Capital Labs will help many companies take the first step to the 'capital' markets through equity crowdfunding. "I view equity crowdfunding as the first step to prepare for a listing on a biotech-friendly stock exchange, which will also enable an exit opportunity for the first round of investors should they wish. Equity crowdfunding enables retail investors to enter, in an efficient way, startup investment opportunities. However, the startup ventures that are also able to create or demonstrate an exit for their investors, by a future listing on an exchange, will be treated preferentially by the retail investor community."

“Capital Labs will open new frontiers for retail investors and life science start ups alike, by bringing biotechnology to the forefront as an asset class previously overlooked and misperceived. Through our educational resources and materials on life sciences and biotechnology, each investor that opens an account with Capital Labs will realise that **a lifetime of understanding biotech investment starts here.**

We are committed to present investors with investment opportunities that will potentially alter human health outcomes.” Dr Syrmalis concluded.

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About Capital Labs

Capital Labs is a dedicated life sciences equity crowdfunding platform forging a new era in start-up funding. A first to market digital investment platform bringing together investors and life science innovators, Capital Labs is part of the iQ Group Global.

capitallabs.com.au

About iQX Investments

iQX Investments is an investment company and fund manager specialising in the life science sector, supporting physicians, scientists and entrepreneurs who are building innovation based businesses.

iqxinvestments.com

About The iQ Group Global

The iQ Group Global provides a turnkey solution for life sciences companies, spanning corporate advisory and investment banking, through to research, development, commercialization and sales. The Group facilitates an end to end solution along the drug lifecycle creating the medicines of tomorrow.

Theiqgroupglobal.com