European Life Sciences Deals Overview Q3 2025

Deal Monitor

KPMG Life Sciences

Mega-deal activity surged in Q3 2025, with the total value of transactions involving European life sciences targets rising 4x year-over-year across 133 deals.

M&A and VC/growth capital each accounted for approximately $20 billion, while public market activity remained subdued at under $2 billion.

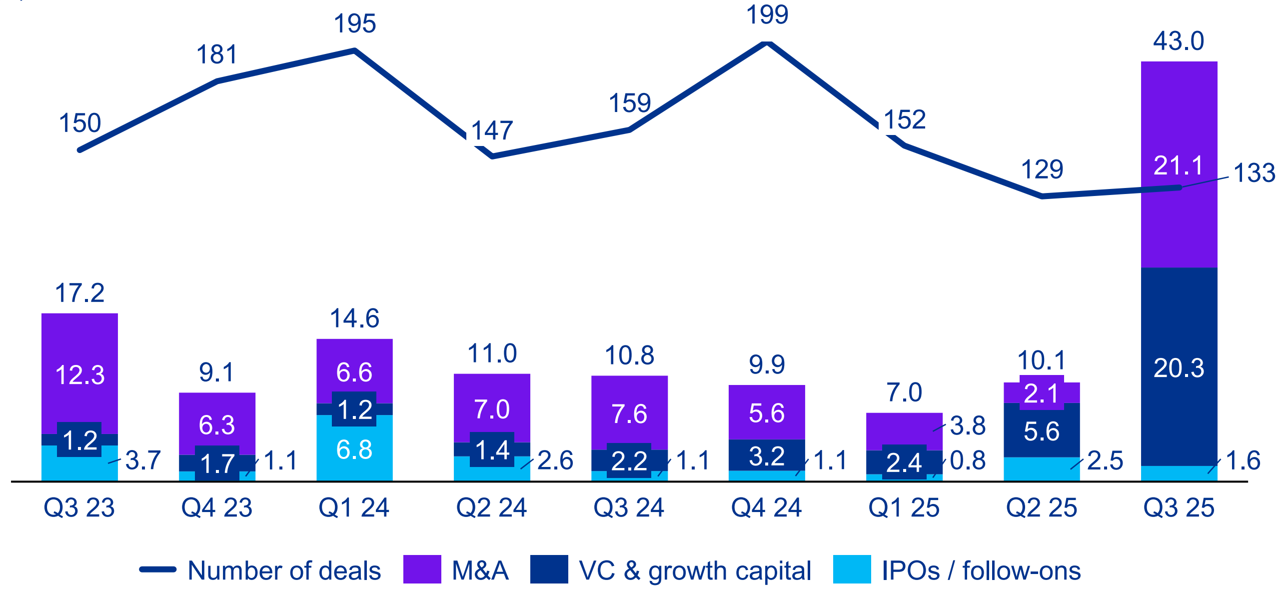
European M&A deal value totaled $21.1 billion in Q3. Notable acquisitions included MSD's $10 billion acquisition of Verona Pharma (first-in-class dual PDE3/4 inhibitor for COPD) and Genmab's $8 billion acquisition of Merus (bi/tri-specific antibodies for oncology). Other deals included Sanofi and Vicebio at $1.6 billion (next-gen respiratory virus vaccines) and Sandoz and Evotec at $300 million (biologics manufacturing).

Venture capital and growth capital deal value was $20.3 billion. The largest deal involved CapVest's majority stake of STADA (consumer healthcare, generics, specialty pharma) at an estimated deal value over $11 billion. GTCR acquired Zentiva (generics) from Advent for a reported $4.8 billion including debt. Nordic Capital and Permira entered a $2.8 billion agreement to acquire Bavarian Nordic (vaccines). Other notable Q3 growth and VC deals included Sofinnova and ArtBio (radiopharma), Wellington and Nuclidium (radiopharma), Novartis and NRG (neurodegenerative), BNP Paribas Fortis and MRM Health (microbiome therapeutics), and ATHOS and AMSilk (biomaterials).

Public markets saw increased follow-on equity offerings, with at least six offerings over $75 million. The IBD company Abivax (ENXTPA:ABVX) closed a follow-on equity offering valued at $650 million. An additional two follow-on equity offerings involved gene therapy player uniQure (NasdaqGS:QURE) for $500 million. Late-stage HAE player Pharvaris (NasdaqGS:PHVS) closed $175 million. DBV Technologies (ENXTPA:DBV), an allergy immunotherapy company, announced a follow-on equity offering of $150 million.

Value and number of European Life Sciences deals Q3 2023 – Q3 2025

$b, number of deals



Sources: CapitalQ; Mergermarket; PitchBook; LSEG; Company press releases; KPMG analysis.

European Life Sciences Deal Spotlight

MSD acquired Verona Pharma to accelerate global rollout of COPD drug Ohtuvayre (Ensifentrine)

Deal Value: $10 billion

Key benefits:

- Immediate commercial respiratory foothold and de-risking of its reliance on oncology franchises
- Access to first-in-class dual PDE3/4 inhibitor inhaled therapy
- U.S. asset with early revenue traction
- Bulk of purchase price is capitalized as intangible

Announced in July 2025; expected to complete in Q4 of 2025

Why it matters:

- Continues diversification of portfolio beyond oncology with assets near or in early commercial phases
- Reaffirms trend acquiring small commercial-stage biotechs with novel mechanisms to accelerate growth

Genmab acquired Merus to secure petosemtamab and pivot to a wholly owned late-stage oncology portfolio

Deal Value: $8 billion, all-cash

Key benefits:

- Control of petosemtamab, a Phase 3 bispecific for head & neck cancer, provides Genmab with competitive 2027 launch potential
- First-in-class EGFR×LGR5 (novel target) bispecific
- Positions near-term commercial build in solid tumors
- ~41% premium; EBITDA-accretive by 2029

Announced in September 2025; expected to close Q1 2026

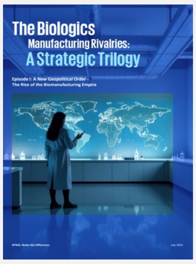
Why it matters:

- A statement move in bispecifics from an EU firm
- Accelerates Genmab's evolution from royalty collector to owner-operator model

Looking ahead:

- **Sustained large-cap momentum:** Mega-deals signal renewed confidence in European life sciences M&A, with the expectation of continued investment in clinical-stage assets over the next quarters
- **Diversified capital deployment:** Private equity's return to scale via transactions like CapVest–STADA and GTCR–Zentiva suggest continued appetite in the sector across generics, consumer health and specialty pharma
- **Innovation-led resilience:** Venture and public market activity remains centered on advanced modalities like radiopharma, gene therapy and bispecifics, indicating Europe's is stabilizing for selective growth into 2026

Check out our latest thought leadership on technological developments in Life Sciences



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Contact us

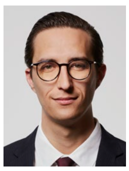
Deborah Lancaster
Partner
Life Sciences Strategy
+41 58 249 78 77
deborahlancaster@kpmg.com

Camal Handor
Director
Life Sciences Strategy
+41 76 280 29 48
camalhandor@kpmg.com

KPMG AG
Badenerstrasse 172
PO Box
8036 Zurich

kpmg.ch/lifesciences

Peter Mozerov, PhD
Senior Manager
Life Sciences Strategy
+41 79 885 77 64
petermozerov@kpmg.com



Stephen Oliva, MD
Senior Consultant
Life Sciences Strategy
+41 76 480 81 99
soliva@kpmg.com

This study is based on Mergermarket, Capital IQ, Pitchbook, Refinitiv and KPMG databases, focusing on deals announced in 2025 but also providing historical data drawn from previous years.