

# Open Orphan PLC

08:18 24 Jun 2020

## Open Orphan primed for profitability after transformational year

Open Orphan PLC (LON:ORPH) said it was targeting operational profitability by the third quarter of the year following its merger with hVIVO.

The enlarged business, which provides outsourced services for the life sciences industry, said it was also expecting to remove a further €2.5m in costs in the second half of the year.

In an update alongside its full-year results, Open Orphan talked of "unprecedented growth opportunities as pharma focuses funding on Covid-19 and respiratory diseases".

This, it said, had led to the development of a strong pipeline of opportunities, for challenge studies along with the wider contract research services offered by the group.

Certainly, the company has been extremely busy in the first six months of the year as hVIVO has launched a "best-in-class" coronavirus testing service and its Venn Life Sciences arm landed a major contract with a vaccine developer.

The aforementioned pipeline of opportunities, meanwhile, includes two significant human challenge studies generating significant near-term revenue, and expansion of lab services. Venn's traditional pharma consulting business "continues to perform well", investors were told.

The results for the year ended December 31 revealed the enlarged Open Orphan would have generated revenues of €27.1m and an operating loss of €14.2m.

After raising almost €20m since the start of the year, Open Orphan is funded to "complete its transition and leverage a broader service offering to an enlarged and combined customer base".

"The merger with hVIVO, post period end, has given us a full-service business, with world-class facilities, motivated colleagues and a strong pipeline of work and transforms our business into the world leader in the testing of vaccines and anti-virals through human challenge model clinical trials," said chairman Cathal Friel.

In the results statement, the firm said a strategic review was underway to monetise its 49% holding of Imutex and "other non-core investments" such as the 62.5% stake in PrEP Biopharm.

**Price:** 30

**Market Cap:** £200.82 m

### 1 Year Share Price Graph



February 2020 August 2020 February 2021

### Share Information

**Code:** ORPH

**Listing:** AIM

**52 week High Low**  
33 4.72

**Sector:** Pharma & Biotech

**Website:** [www.openorphan.com](http://www.openorphan.com)

### Company Synopsis:

*Open Orphan is a rapidly growing specialist CRO pharmaceutical services company which is a world leader in the testing of vaccines and antivirals through the use of human challenge clinical trials. It has Europe's only 24-bedroom quarantine clinic with onsite virology lab in Queen Mary's Hospital London.*

[action@proactiveinvestors.com](mailto:action@proactiveinvestors.com)

Proactive Investors facilitate the largest global investor network across 4 continents in 4 languages. With a team of analysts, journalists & professional investors Proactive produce independent coverage on 1000's of companies across every sector for private investors, private client brokers, fund managers and international investor communities.

Contact us +44 (0)207 989 0813 [action@proactiveinvestors.com](mailto:action@proactiveinvestors.com)

### No investment advice

The Company is a publisher. You understand and agree that no content published on the Site constitutes a recommendation that any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, or investment strategy is suitable or advisable for any specific person. You understand that the Content on the Site is provided for information purposes only, and none of the information contained on the Site constitutes an offer, solicitation or recommendation to buy or sell a security. You understand that the Company receives either monetary or securities compensation for our services. We stand to benefit from any volume which any Content on the Site may generate.

You further understand that none of the information providers or their affiliates will advise you personally concerning the nature, potential, advisability, value, suitability or profitability of any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, investment, investment strategy, or other matter.

You understand that the Site may contain opinions from time to time with regard to securities mentioned in other products, including Company-related products, and that those opinions may be different from those obtained by using another product related to the Company. You understand and agree that contributors may write about securities in which they or their firms have a position, and that they may trade such securities for their own account. In cases where the position is held at the time of publication and such position is known to the Company, appropriate disclosure is made. However, you understand and agree that at the time of any transaction that you make, one or more contributors may have a position in the securities written about. You understand that price and other data is supplied by sources believed to be reliable, that the calculations herein are made using such data, and that neither such data nor such calculations are guaranteed by these sources, the Company, the information providers or any other person or entity, and may not be complete or accurate.

From time to time, reference may be made in our marketing materials to prior articles and opinions we have published. These references may be selective, may reference only a portion of an article or recommendation, and are likely not to be current. As markets change continuously, previously published information and data may not be current and should not be relied upon.

The Site does not, and is not intended to, provide investment, tax, accounting, legal or insurance advice, and is not and should not be construed as providing any of the foregoing. You should consult an attorney or other relevant professional regarding your specific legal, tax, investment or other needs as tailored to your specific situation.

In exchange for publishing services rendered by the Company on behalf of Open Orphan PLC named herein, including the promotion by the Company of Open Orphan PLC in any Content on the Site, the Company receives from said issuer annual aggregate cash compensation in the amount up to Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000).