



A Research Program with One of Top 10 Global Pharmas to Validate Targets for Potential Antibodies Medicines

Nantes – France, 12 of April, 2013 – In-Cell-Art, a biotechnology company specializing in nanocarrier technologies called Nanotaxi® for macromolecules delivery (DNA, RNA, Protein), announces the joint research program with one of the top 10 global pharmas to validate targets for the development of antibodies with potential therapeutic use in human by ICANTibodies™, a fully integrated antibodies discovery process without peptide and recombinant protein (from plasmid DNA antigen design and synthesis, Nanotaxi®/plasmid formulation and immunization in various species, to antibody quality controls). The figure below is the process of ICANTibodies™. The financial terms of this agreement are not disclosed.



Nanotaxi®, the proprietary In-Cell-Art formulations, makes ICANTibodies™ unique compared to other genetic immunization-based antibodies discovery since Nanotaxi® dramatically increases expression of the gene-encoded antigen and hugely stimulates the innate immune system through an unique delivery mechanism. The combination of these two properties allows the Nanotaxi® to generate powerful immune responses and antibodies of interest even against extremely difficult targets such as complex of integral membrane proteins and proteins with high homology. Discovered antibodies are of high quality with high specificity and high affinity (~pM).

Bruno Pitard, co-founder of In-Cell-Art, said “In-Cell-Art is very pleased to reach this agreement with a world’s leading pharmaceutical firm evaluating ICANTibodies™ as a way to break through in challenges to validate targets and develop antibody medicines. In In-Cell-Art history, we have succeeded in quite a few projects from academics and pharmaceutical firms which were not successful by alternative technologies. As simple and easy targets have been already exploited, In-Cell-Art believes that at present market needs are more for antibodies discovery against complex targets which require an innovative solution like ICANTibodies™”.

About In-Cell-Art

In-Cell-Art (ICA), which is headquartered in Nantes (France) is a biopharmaceutical company specializing in the preclinical and pharmaceutical development of nanocarriers named Nanotaxi® for macromolecular drugs. Its founder and research

team, which includes a Nobel Laureate, have designed new classes of vectors that are organized on a nanometric scale, which enables them to cross the cell barrier efficiently and safely. In-Cell-Art offers a range of reagents and biotechnology development services:

1. ICANtibodies™

In the absence of recombinant antigen, ICANtibodies™ allows, from an in silico DNA antigenic sequence, the production of the most ambitious functional antibodies against any natively expressed nuclear, cytoplasmic, secreted or membrane proteins. ICANtibodies™ has allowed, in less than 2 years, the production of more than 250 different functional antibodies. In-Cell-Art has worked with a number of pharmaceutical firms (Sanofi, GlaxoSmithKline, Geneuro etc.) and public research institutions and universities (Institut Cochin, Cancer Research UK, Institute of Neurology UK etc).

2. ICA Nanotaxi®

- DNA Vaccine

ICA614 Nanotaxi®, an innovative DNA synthetic formulation, offers unique efficient and industrial features such as the dramatic enhancement of the immunogenicity of plasmid DNA-encoding tumours or pathogen-derived antigens, a reduction in the dose of plasmid DNA, as well as an excellent safety profile. ICA614 Nanotaxi® represents a crucial step in DNA vaccine development, and is currently being tested by major vaccine companies (Sanofi-Pasteur, Merial etc.).

- mRNA Vaccine

Some other ICA Nanotaxi® are also being assessed in \$33.1 million RN-ARMORVAX consortium, co-funded by US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The consortium would validate the new application of ICA Nanotaxi® for mRNA-based vaccines for infectious diseases in collaboration with CureVac and Sanofi-Pasteur.

3. ICAFectin® transfection reagents

ICAFectin® transfection reagents are innovative breakthrough synthetic vectors for in vitro nucleic acid delivery. They are becoming the reagents of choice for efficient DNA and siRNA transfections as demonstrated by their increasing use in numerous studies published in high impact factor journals including Journal of Biological Chemistry, Nucleic Acids Research, PLOS ONE, PLOS Pathogen, Human Gene Therapy and more.

In-Cell-Art is a privately held company, which was founded in 2005. It is a member of the Atlanpole Biotherapies high-tech cluster of biotechnology companies in western France.

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