



PRESS RELEASE

EDEN BIODESIGN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM DEVELOP NOVEL THERAPEUTIC CANDIDATE FOR THE TREATMENT OF A RANGE OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Liverpool, UK; 30th July 2007: Eden Biodesign Ltd, an expert provider of development and manufacturing services for new biopharmaceutical medicines, announced today that it has been selected by the University of Birmingham (Birmingham, UK) to develop and produce vOX2:Fc, a novel therapeutic candidate for the treatment of autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. The novel drug candidate is investigated by Dr David Blackburn and his research team and has already attracted interest from a number of biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

Dr David Blackburn commented: "Working with Eden Biodesign will allow us to advance our understanding of the therapeutic potential of this drug candidate; clinical applications for this novel therapy could range from autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis to asthma and allergy. We are delighted to have Eden Biodesign contribute to the vOX2 programme at the state of the art facility in Liverpool."

"We are very pleased to assist the University of Birmingham on the further development of this promising therapy and to enhance its potential to succeed as a therapeutic candidate. In addition to providing drug development manufacturing and services; we have the expertise to guide our clients through the complexities of pharmaceutical development." added Dr Crawford Brown, CEO of Eden Biodesign.

This project has been funded by:

- National Biomanufacturing Centre (NBC) Access Fund administered by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

Dr Linda Magee, NWDA Biotechnology Sector Director & Head of Bionow, commented: "The NBC was precisely set up to support such collaboration - by providing expertise to take projects forward in a robust manufacturing framework in order to enable commercialisation and, hopefully, to benefit both patients and biopharmaceuticals UK plc".

Eden Biodesign is the operator of the National Biomanufacturing Centre (NBC) facility and is currently providing consultancy, development and manufacturing services to large pharmaceutical companies, biotech companies, charities and academic groups.

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Notes to editors:

Eden Biodesign

Eden Biodesign is a successful international biopharmaceutical development and manufacturing services business that provides 'state of the art' development and manufacturing services to biotech clients across Europe, the USA and Asia. It promises all clients a committed service plus the knowledge and expertise to guide clients through process development, manufacturing, regulatory and technology transfer challenges.

The company uses the principles of 'Good Science' at every step of biopharmaceutical development to design programmes and processes that deliver clinically and commercially valuable products, with an accomplished and attentive level of project management that clients need. For further information please visit www.edenbiodesign.com.

The University of Birmingham

For a description of Dr David Blackbourn's research interests at the University of Birmingham, please visit <http://www.cancerstudies.bham.ac.uk/staff/DavidBlackbourn.htm>

The National Biomanufacturing Centre

The £34.25 million National Biomanufacturing Centre which was officially opened in November 2006, is a Government-funded initiative led by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) additionally funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and aims to establish England's Northwest as one of the foremost biomanufacturing centres in Europe.

The centre provides the expertise and facilities to support new and existing biotechnology companies, offering product development services designed to fill in the skill and resource gaps that exist within these



organisations. It also provides training in biomanufacturing and analytical sciences, delivering the skilled workforce required to expand the UK biopharmaceutical sector.

There is also an Access Fund of nearly £3 million funded by the Department of Trade and Industry and the European Regional Development Fund, which is available to qualifying small-to-medium companies and academic groups in the biotechnology sector to assist them in purchasing development and clinical manufacturing services from the Centre. www.biomanufacturing.co.uk