



PRESS RELEASE

EDEN BIODESIGN AND IQUR SIGN DEAL TO DEVELOP A NOVEL COMBINED VACCINE FOR THE TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS A AND B

Liverpool, UK; 31 January 2008: Eden Biodesign Ltd, one of the UK's leading contract bio manufacturers and iQur Ltd, a speciality pharma company at the forefront of research to combat liver disease, announced today that they have entered into an agreement to develop iQur's innovative, 'tandem core' vaccine for hepatitis A and B.

Eden Biodesign will develop a unique bio-manufacturing process to achieve optimal product quality in line with cost of goods parameters before proceeding with clinical trial cGMP manufacture. The project will also involve iQur's collaborators; Arecor Ltd, Mologic Ltd and the University of Leeds.

Research conducted by iQur has suggested that their novel vaccine platform, based on the HBV core protein, can carry antigens specific for both hepatitis A and B simultaneously. Furthermore, this construct is highly immunogenic and should dramatically increase vaccine efficiency and reduce the current need for booster vaccinations. The consortium partners add considerable value to the project, with Arecor applying its proprietary protein stabilization technology and Mologic developing novel yeast expression systems. Whilst the market for such a vaccine is undoubtedly large, this will also serve as a proof of concept allowing new combination vaccines to be developed for a number of conditions, including infectious disease and cancers.

Dr Crawford Brown, CEO, Eden Biodesign commented: "We are extremely pleased to combine our expertise in vaccine development and manufacture with iQur's innovative technology and deliver a process that will enable further development of the product. We are excited to be working with iQur's expert team and such a promising technology that has significant medical benefits for the treatment of liver disease".

"We are delighted to work with Eden Biodesign in the development of our combined vaccine" said Dr Mike Whelan, Head of Scientific Operations, iQur. "This collaboration will ensure we deliver a product of the highest quality at an affordable cost. We value Eden's ability to advise us on the best development options for our programmes complementing our scientific expertise with their in-depth



understanding of product development”.

The part-project is funded by an award from the Technology Strategy Board and match funding from consortia members, designed to support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business.

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Notes to editors:

iQur Ltd

iQur® is a specialty pharmaceutical company at the forefront of international breakthroughs in the detection, treatment and monitoring of Hepatitis C and other liver diseases.

iQur exists to provide clinicians with a comprehensive, 24–48 hour service for genotyping, qualification and quantification of both the Hepatitis C (HCV) and Hepatitis B (HBV) viruses. Diagnostic testing is available using blood samples, saliva samples, blood spots and small volume whole blood. Our menu also includes qualification and quantification of HIV, and a patient-friendly repeatable test to measure the extent of liver fibrosis using serum markers.

iQur also has an active programme in liver therapeutics, with vaccine research being at the forefront. However, we also have interests in developing novel chemotherapies for viral liver disease and molecular biological treatments for liver fibrosis.

Founded in 2003 by liver disease specialist Professor William Rosenberg, iQur is based in Southampton General Hospital and has a second therapeutics research office at the University of Leeds. For further information please visit the website at www.iQur.co.uk



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.

Arecor Limited

Arecor Limited is a drug formulation company which has developed proprietary and patented technology for improving the stability of therapeutic proteins and vaccines both from heat damage in storage and from radiation damage during sterilisation. Stabilisation is achieved without any covalent modification using simple, biocompatible excipients, and can be incorporated into standard manufacturing practice. At the early stage of product development it can enable practical experimentation by stabilising proteins that might otherwise be too labile for consideration. Arecor is working with major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to improve formulations of existing therapeutic proteins and diagnostics as well as providing an enabling platform for the next generation of proteins. For further information please visit www.arecor.com/

Mologic Ltd

Mologic Ltd is one of the leading companies in yeast expression – essential for the development of successful vaccines at commercial quantities. We have wide Immunoassay experience as well as a broad understanding of medical diagnostic devices and antibody development. Mologic is able to offer contract research – we are currently working with a number of major international companies in point-of-care and consumer diagnostics, as well as collaborating with clinical groups in government-funded projects; Wound Diagnostics - assay development for wound diagnosis and enhanced healing; and Intellectual Property - development of proprietary technology generating a strong portfolio of patents. For further information please visit www.mologic.co.uk/