

ASX Announcement and Media Release

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DOMANTIS PRESS RELEASE ON GRANT OF PATENT

Domantis Limited, the company in which Peptech will hold a 36.1% interest, made the following announcement yesterday in relation to the granting of a patent in the USA in pioneering protein selection technology.

“Domantis has Exclusive Rights to Pioneering Protein Selection Technology which Gains US Patent

Cambridge, UK and USA, 6 February, 2003... Domantis Limited, the leading Domain Antibody (dAb) drug discovery company, has strengthened its technology position for the selection of antibodies and antibody fragments following the grant of US Patent Number 6,489,103. Domantis has field-exclusive rights from the UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) to this pioneering emulsion technology, which offers significant advantages over existing methodologies.

The emulsion technology enables users to extract specific genes which encode proteins with desirable activities from large pools of gene sequences. For the isolation of antibodies this is traditionally achieved by animal immunization or by in vitro selection technologies such as phage display. Unlike phage selection, the new technique does not use bacteria or cells, or require repetitive and time-consuming laboratory tasks such as centrifugation and overnight culture. The emulsion technology has the potential to be automated for high throughput efficiency and maximum convenience.

Domantis Chief Scientific Officer and Co-Founder Ian Tomlinson said, ‘This technology takes us one step closer to the ideal scenario of entering a chosen antibody target at one end of a machine and retrieving a binding dAb at the other. The invention underlines the quality of the pioneering work undertaken at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology (MRC-LMB) and Centre for Protein Engineering (MRC-CPE) in Cambridge, UK, where the emulsion technology is being researched and developed. Should the work that Domantis is funding continue on track we plan to integrate the technology into our drug discovery efforts and commercialise it through licensing deals and development of automated antibody selection instrumentation.’

The new technology is based on a water-in-oil emulsion which compartmentalises genes and their products into an entity which behaves like an artificial cell. It was invented by Drs Andrew Griffiths and Dan Tawfik of the MRC-LMB, both of whom are consultants to Domantis. The grant of the US patent complements the corresponding UK patent (UK-2342094) and an Australian patent (AU736836), which were granted in October 2002 and November 2001 respectively. The patent family is managed by the MRC. Domantis has exclusive commercial rights to this intellectual property for the fields of antibodies, antibody fragments and T cell receptors. MRC retains rights to license outside of these fields.

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