



PEPTECH
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ASX/Media Announcement

Peptech signs manufacturing agreement for anti-TNF dAb therapeutic

Australian biotechnology company Peptech Limited (ASX: PTD) today announced it had signed an agreement with an internationally reputed manufacturer of biopharmaceuticals to manufacture Peptech's anti-TNF domain antibody (dAb) based therapeutic to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards.

The protein produced under the contract will be of a suitable standard for use in humans and in the non-human preclinical studies that are essential for entry to human clinical trials.

Peptech has previously reported the successful completion of a preclinical trial of its proprietary dAb-based compound, which was generated by UK company Domantis Limited and subsequently transferred to Peptech under a research agreement between the two companies. Peptech further developed the compound to improve the acceptability of the anti-TNF as a potential drug in humans and increase its commercial potential.

In the preclinical study, the compound recorded potency levels approximately three times higher than a leading blockbuster anti-TNF drug against rheumatoid arthritis in the same model used in the development of current marketed anti-TNF drugs. The compound was also shown to have optimal design features, making it suitable for commercial production.

Peptech Executive Chairman Mr Mel Bridges said now Peptech had signed the manufacturing contract it would advance commercial production of the dAb-based compound under the rigorous requirements of GMP.

"Preparatory to commercial production Peptech successfully generated, in-house, a panel of cell-lines that produce the anti-TNF compound. The cell-lines produce biologically active anti-TNF compound in large amounts. The level of production is at the upper end of industry standards," he said.

Mr Bridges said Peptech was extremely pleased with the amount of compound being produced by the cells and the biological activity of this compound.

“Progress in this initial phase of the manufacturing work has given us strong confidence in the potential of these cell-lines to sustain commercial levels of production of the anti-TNF protein,” he said.

“Accordingly we have entered into this agreement with an internationally reputed leading custom manufacturer of biopharmaceuticals. The key deliverable is the production of GMP quality material in sufficient quantity to enable the further preclinical assessment of the Peptech compound and its use in human clinical trials.

“We are progressing well towards our goal of entering the clinic with the anti-TNF dAb in the first half of 2007.”

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ABOUT PEPTECH

Peptech Limited focuses on the research and development of peptides and proteins in the areas of human pharmaceuticals and animal health. It has a growing product pipeline in its human health division with two potentially valuable anti-inflammatory drugs and exciting developments in its cancer program emanating from its joint venture with Biosceptre. Peptech holds 50% equity in its joint venture with Biosceptre and holds a 36.1 per cent shareholding in Domantis, a UK-based drug development company. Peptech is positioned to become a globally recognised leader in biopharmaceutical development.