

Eurostars Granted Project “A novel modified natural killer (NK) cell immunotherapy for the treatment of solid tumours” – MODIFY-NK



May 16th 2018

Eurostars, a European joint programme, co-funded from the national budgets of several EUREKA countries and by the European Union through Horizon 2020 has awarded, through a highly-competitive selection process, the Project “*A novel modified natural killer (NK) cell immunotherapy for the treatment of solid tumours*” – **MODIFY-NK**.

The consortium composed of Glycostem Therapeutics BV (The Netherlands), YUMAB GmbH (Germany), Explicyte (France) and OZ Biosciences SAS (France) will deliver a novel cell-based therapy to treat solid tumours with chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) expressing allogeneic (i.e. from a patient independent donor) natural killer (NK) cells. These CARs strongly improve solid tumour targeting and killing potential. The efficacy of this clinical grade CAR-NK cell product will be validated in a preclinical solid tumour model and the therapy will be ready for clinical studies within 24 months after completion of this project.

The total reward amounts to €3,626,860.00 for the 3-year programme.

“We are proud and delighted that our innovative proposal was selected and rewarded by Eurostars funding. The synergistic combination of our consortium technologies will definitely provide a breakthrough in this exhilarating field of immunotherapy. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration and successful outcome” said Olivier Zelphati, CEO of OZ Biosciences Sas.

“This highly exciting opportunity to work in synchronisation with other healthcare companies in France and Germany, generating new cellular immunotherapy products is very motivating. With the other consortium members we have a very good chance of learning much more about designing new life-saving drugs for hard-to-treat cancer patients.” added Troels Jordansen, CEO of Glycostem Therapeutics BV.

“This outstanding European research consortium aims to develop a new targeted, adoptive cellular immunotherapy for the treatment of hard-to-treat solid tumours without the prior need of the expensive and complicated process involving the isolation, modification and expansion of patient’s own immune cells. It can be a real game changer.” said Thomas Schirrmann, CEO of Yumab GmbH.

“Combining the key expertise of the consortium members will bring innovative insights in the active field of immuno-oncology research. We are looking forward to initiating this strategic project taking advantage of motivating technical challenges to reach attractive therapeutic outcomes” said Alban Bessede, CEO of Explicyte.



For more information about the project please contact Jan Spanholtz, CSO at Glycostem for more details; Jan@Glycostem.com.

About **Glycostem**:

Netherlands-based Glycostem Therapeutics BV, a privately owned and clinical stage biotech company focused on developing off-the shelf allogeneic cellular immunotherapy using Natural Killer (NK) cells to treat several types of cancer. NK-cells are the body's first line of defence because of the innate ability of NK-cells to rapidly and accurately identify and destroy cells under stress, such as cancer or virally-infected cells.

Glycostem's lead product, oNKord[®], is produced in a closed system in Glycostem's state-of-the-art production facility in The Netherlands, from which the product can be distributed globally. The platform technology includes *ex vivo* expansion of a high number of pure and highly activated NK-cells for clinical applications. oNKord[®] successfully concluded phase I clinical trial (elderly and fragile AML patients), providing solid safety data and strong indication of clinical activity, including response on MRD. Glycostem expects to obtain GMP certification by the end of 2018 and is planning to enter pivotal clinical trial in Q1 2019.

Thanks to the six patent families, longstanding technical expertise and resources, as well as 'Orphan Drug Designation', Glycostem has secured a leadership position in the global NK-cell market.

For more information, please visit www.Glycostem.com

About **Yumab**: The German biotech company YUMAB GmbH is a global provider of therapeutic antibody development for immunotherapies. The YUMAB antibody platform covers all steps starting with the discovery of fully human antibodies from one of the World's largest universal libraries or patient derived libraries to advanced protein engineering technologies for the development of the final lead sequence independent of the format (scFv, Fab, IgG, bi-specifics, ADCs, CARs etc.). YUMAB's fully natural-derived human antibodies are derived from the human body promising superior properties in respect of immunogenicity and toxicity than synthetic sequences. YUMAB was founded in 2012 as spin-off of the University of Braunschweig based on a more than 28 years track record of excellent research in recombinant antibody technologies. Due to the expansion in 2017, YUMAB recently relocated its headquarters to one of Germany's hotspots in life-sciences - the Science Campus Braunschweig South - and founded a subsidiary in the USA.

For more information, please visit: www.yumab.com

About **Explicyte**: Explicyte - a tradename of ImmuSmol – is a French Contract Research Organisation offering preclinical services to evaluate the efficacy of novel candidate compounds in the exciting field of Immuno-oncology. Explicyte provides comprehensive off the shelf assays including **i)** *in vitro* cell-based assays on primary cell culture and innovative readouts measurements and, **ii)** valuable *in vivo* tumour models, fully validated with gold

standard checkpoint inhibitors used in the clinic. In addition and as to better fit with sponsors' needs, Explicyte offers custom assay development. Hence, besides its service activities, Explicyte is dedicated to the permanent development of innovative *in vitro* and *in vivo* models to serve drug development programs.

For more information, please visit: www.explicyte.com

About OZ Biosciences: OZ Biosciences is a French biotech company specialised in the development of innovative transfection and transduction technologies. Since 2003, the company produces and commercialises innovative molecular delivery systems specialised in transfection and transduction tools, for research and therapeutic applications. With more than 65 products in its portfolio, OZ Biosciences offer a complete range of products for genetic engineering that includes Magnetofection™ (magnet-assisted nucleic acids delivery), Lipofection (lipid-based), Polyfection (polymer-based) and i-MICST™ (integrated Magnetic Immuno-Cell Sorting and Transfection/Transduction) technologies. Our R&D work is focused on developing technologies for genetic engineering for *in vitro*, *ex-vivo* and *in vivo* applications. “We are always in quest of offering state-of-the-art transfection and transduction products to enable researchers to achieve great results. This acknowledgment highlights the creativity of our technologies”.

For more information, please visit: www.ozbiosciences.com