

Evotec and Interprotein Sign Collaboration Agreement to Develop Interleukin 6 Inhibitors to Treat Inflammatory Diseases, February 16, 2007

Evotec AG (Frankfurt Stock Exchange: EVT) of Hamburg, Germany and Oxford, England and Interprotein Corporation (previous IntercytoNanoScience Co.,Ltd.) of Amagasaki-City, Japan, proudly announce today that they have signed a collaboration agreement on Interprotein's Interleukin 6 (IL-6) inhibitors program for the development of novel, orally active drugs treating inflammatory diseases.

IL-6 is a crucial cytokine involved in the onset and progression of inflammatory diseases such as e.g. rheumatoid arthritis and cachexia. Based on *in silico* drug design, Interprotein discovered a number of hit molecules. On the basis of these structures Evotec will use their expertise in medicinal chemistry, computational chemistry and profiling to fully optimise the compounds and to development potent inhibitors for IL-6.

Mr. Masato Hosoda, President and CEO of Interprotein, said, "We are excited about the collaboration with Evotec, which has a leading position in drug discovery and development and a proven track record in progressing drug candidates into development. Ongoing anti-IL6 antibody clinical trials provide evidence that the inhibition of IL-6 is significantly effective in inflammatory diseases. We believe that orally available drugs have the potential to supersede antibody therapy and furthermore, we hope that this program will prove that small molecule compounds may have the potential to inhibit such protein-protein interactions"

Dr. Mark Ashton, Executive Vice President Business Development Services Division from Evotec said: "We were impressed by the results of Interprotein's *in silico* work. Our medicinal chemists look forward to optimising the molecules identified and to supporting Interprotein with potent drug candidates for this very interesting target. We really enjoyed the excellent atmosphere developed between Evotec and Interprotein during the scientific and commercial discussions."

Evotec is a leader in the discovery and development of novel small molecule drugs. Both through its own discovery programmes and through research collaborations, the Company is generating the highest quality research results to its partners in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

In proprietary projects, Evotec specialises in finding new treatments for diseases of the Central Nervous System. Evotec has three programmes in clinical development: EVT 201, a partial positive allosteric modulator (pPAM) of the GABA_A receptor complex for the treatment of insomnia, EVT 101, a subtype selective NMDA receptor antagonist for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and/or pain, and EVT 302, a MAO-B inhibitor.

In research collaborations, Evotec has established itself as the partner of choice for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide. The Company provides innovative and often integrated solutions from drug target to clinic through an unmatched range of capabilities, including early stage assay development and screening through to medicinal chemistry and drug manufacturing.

www.evotec.com

IntercytoNanoScience was founded in 2001 and changed its name to Interprotein on February 1, 2007. Interprotein's emphasis is the research and development of small molecule drugs that modulate protein-protein interactions that are clearly evidenced as therapeutic targets and have confirmed present values from precedent monoclonal antibody therapies. The company's strategic drugs realize the same efficacy as antibody drugs and have more strong marketability with lower medication costs and oral availability. The company has been successfully discovered the promising hit compounds for IgE inhibitor and searches VEGF inhibitors.

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