

Press release

24 January 2005

UroGene sells to Laboratoires Pierre Fabre its research platform in the Lyon area, as well as its current R&D programs in uro-oncology.

UroGene (Evry-Genopole) announced today that it signed an agreement whereby it sells to Laboratoires Pierre Fabre its research platform in combination chemistry and medicinal chemistry located in Villeurbanne, near Lyon, France and two ongoing research programs in the area of prostate and bladder cancer.

This agreement gives UroGene a chance to re-focus its activity on the clinical development of products in the area of urology, particularly Besipirdine, a product acquired from Aventis in 2003 for the treatment of irritable bladder.

Under this agreement whose amount was not disclosed, Laboratoires Pierre Fabre acquired the patents and know-how related to the two research programs and the facilities, technology and equipment, including the UroGene sample collection of some 50,000 compounds. Laboratoires Pierre Fabre also takes over the whole staff on the Villeurbanne site (25 people). All the assets are being compounded in a newly created subsidiary within the Pierre Fabre Research Institute, called Pierre Fabre Urologie, located in Villeurbanne.

"This agreement clearly illustrates the industrial value of UroGene's research platform, the quality of its research team", stated Christian Grenier, UroGene's president.

Jacques Kusmierck, President of Pierre Fabre Research Institute and of Pierre Fabre Urologie declared that "this agreement illustrates our long-term commitment to a strategy of collaboration with high-performance biotech companies. Developing partnerships with such companies gives us access to the most recent scientific and technological developments in key areas".

"furthermore, it offers Pierre Fabre Research Institute an opportunity to extend its expertise, know-how and means in areas such as Urology and Oncology which stand among our priorities. Thus we maximise our chances to discover products in areas of major therapeutic demand for development by the Pierre Fabre Group".

The Pierre Fabre Research Institute (IRPF)

The Pierre Fabre Research Institute was created in 1994 to bring together all the R&D activities within the Pierre Fabre Group (total staff of 9 000, sales of 1430 million euros in 2003, with three major branches : prescription only medicines, OTC and homeopathic drugs, dermo-cosmetics).

Research at the IRPF concentrates on 5 major axes : Oncology (nearly 50% of the R&D budget), Central Nervous System, Internal Medicine and Urology, Cardio-vascular diseases and Dermatology. Some 1100 co-workers spread over 12 sites in France and Spain, are expected to develop innovative treatments in response to current major public health problems.

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