



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMMUTEP CLOSES SECOND FUNDING TO ENTER CLINIC

Immutep S.A. announced today the closing in December of a second financing of €2.5 million (\$3.25 million) taking the total amount raised externally by the Company to €5 million (\$6.5 million). The proceeds will be used to take the Company's lead product, IMP321, into Phase I/II clinical trials in the second quarter of 2005. IMP321 is a potent natural human T cell immunostimulatory factor designed to amplify the T cell immune response required to kill tumours and infected cells.

The investment was led by Paris-based venture capital firm, Innoven Partenaires (through funds FCPI Poste Innovation 2 & 3 and Innoven FCPI 6), and included a new investment from venture capital fund H2I, a specialist Biotech fund managed by Equitis (Paris). Immutep is in discussions with additional investors for further financing to expand the Company's pipeline.

"We have been impressed with the way management has executed its strategy, meeting every milestone on time and within budget," said Jean-Sébastien Cleiftie, Board Member of Immutep, and Investment Manager of Innoven Partenaires. "Immutep has a strong intellectual property position and global marketing rights for products derived from LAG-3, a protein with highly promising data in immunotherapy. We are delighted to continue to support the Company, which expects to have completed Phase I/II trials during 2005," added Paul Toon, Managing Partner of Innoven Partenaires.

"In my view, Immutep is a paragon of the biotech companies we'd like to support in the future: lean, focused, with strong (exceptional) IP, and a technology that not only carries high promise, but is also readily "actionable" meaning it generates products that are easy to make and can be administered in an out-patient setting," commented Raffy Kazandjian, of Unicorn Biotutors, advisor to Equitis. "In just over a year after the initial investment at the end of 2003, the first product of the Company will be in the clinic. And here we're talking about a novel biotech product, not a pharmaceutical "me-too"".

Immutep S.A. is a biopharmaceutical company primarily focused on the discovery and development of novel therapeutic vaccines for the treatment of cancer and chronic infectious diseases. The Company's technologies are based on the properties of LAG-3, a key mediator of the T cell immune response. One of LAG-3's major physiological roles is to stimulate dendritic cells leading to the T cell immune response required to kill tumours and infected cells. Immutep is developing therapeutic vaccines both in-house and in partnership with pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Discussions with potential partners are ongoing.

The Company was formed in 2001 by Frédéric Triebel, the Company's scientific founder, and John B. Hawken, a specialist in the management of biotech start-ups, and has its headquarters and research facilities near Paris, France. For further information please visit the web-site www.immutep.com or e-mail John Hawken, CEO, at JBHawken@immutep.com.

The Technology

Immutep S.A. is developing a range of products derived from LAG-3 (CD223), an immunomodulatory protein expressed on the surface of T cells. LAG-3 was discovered by Professor Triebel in his INSERM laboratory at Institut Gustave Roussy (IGR, Villejuif, France) and his laboratory at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Châtenay-Malabry (University Paris 11). The Company has three unique proprietary product platforms making use of the key roles played by this natural human protein in the regulation of the immune system. The first two technologies (*ImmuFact* and *ImmuCine*) take advantage of the immunostimulatory properties of the *free* molecule to create potent therapeutic vaccines. Therapeutic vaccines are used to treat diseases by harnessing the power of the T cell immune response to attack tumours or infected cells. The principal difficulty in designing effective therapeutic vaccines is that the antigens displayed on the surface of a tumour or an infected cell are insufficiently immunogenic. Dendritic cells (DC) are key mediators in determining the strength of the immune response to an antigen. Immutep's first two technologies provide solutions to the problem of insufficient immunogenicity by dramatically increasing the efficiency of DC. The third technology exploits the properties of the *membrane-bound* molecule on activated T cells and on regulatory T cells to modulate the T cell response.

ImmuFact - T cell Immunostimulatory Factors for amplifying the T cell response to any antigen

The Company's lead product, IMP321, is a highly potent T cell immunostimulatory factor derived from the soluble form of LAG-3 that binds, with high affinity, to MHC class II molecules expressed by DC. This binding leads to DC maturation, migration to the lymph nodes and enhanced presentation of antigens to T cells. As a result, strong and sustained anti-tumour or anti-viral cytotoxic T cell responses are obtained when IMP321 is coinjected with either tumour cells or protein or DNA antigens.

ImmuCine – Immunostimulatory Vaccines

The Company is developing a second patented technology that will make it possible to design novel therapeutic vaccines with even greater potency and efficacy. Covalently linking an antigen to IMP321 in a fusion protein results in both vectorisation of the antigen to the DC as well as the immunostimulatory effect described above. These dual action vaccines will be particularly useful in very difficult cases like HIV.

Innoven Partenaires S.A.

Innoven Partenaires is a leading European venture capital firm with €150 Million under management, focusing on Life Sciences, Wireless Communication, and Information Technology. We have 18 portfolio companies across Europe, and play an active role in helping management teams achieve rapid growth, drawing upon a broad international network of technical and commercial expertise. We usually act as lead investor and commit up to € 10 Million per company over several investment rounds. Innoven Partenaires is approved by the AMF, the French financial regulatory authority.” (www.innoven-partners.com).

Equitis S.A.

Equitis is an AMF approved service company which provides private equity institutions and investors a range of professional services, including surrogate fund management. Equitis is the Manager of the Human Health Investment (H2I) Fund, dedicated to investments in life science companies (www.equitis.fr).

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