February 25, 2015

Press release

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation

Medicago Develops Alternative Production Process for Ebola Antibodies
Contract concluded with U.S. government

Osaka, Japan, February 25, 2015—Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (President and Representative Director: Masayuki Mitsuka) and Medicago Inc., (Head Office: Quebec, Canada; President and CEO: Andy Sheldon) have announced the signing of a contract with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), a public institution within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contract is for an alternative production process for Ebola antibodies that uses Medicago's plant-based protein production and refining technologies.

Ebola hemorrhagic fever has become a major threat to international society, but there are not yet any effective treatment methods, drugs, or vaccines, and new treatment methods have been long-awaited. In this setting, ZMapp™, a drug that is under development by Mapp Biopharmaceutical Inc. (Head Office: San Diego, U.S.), has been the focus of attention as a means of treating Ebola hemorrhagic fever. Medicago has proprietary technologies for the plant-based production, extraction, and refining of proteins, and those technologies have been highly evaluated by the U.S. government. Medicago has studied alternative production processes for the Ebola antibodies used in ZMapp™, and moving forward Medicago will work to develop processes with focus on increased productivity and to produce of investigational antibodies for pre-clinical trials.

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PRESS RELEASE

MEDICAGO AWARDED A CONTRACT BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO EXPLORE ALTERNATE PRODUCTION METHODS FOR EBOLA ANTIBODIES

QUEBEC, CANADA (February 24, 2015) – Medicago, a leading company in the development and production of plant-based vaccines and therapeutics, announced today that it has received a task order from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for three anti-Ebola virus monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) with expected performance comparable to that of ZMapp™, from Mapp Biopharmaceutical.

Medicago will manufacture the antibodies, two of which were discovered by the Public Health Agency of Canada in its Quebec City, Canada facility for a study in non-human primates (NHP). This order is the result of a Task Order Request (TOR) that was solicited by BARDA on December 22, 2014. It is part of the indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) contract between Medicago and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Joining the global efforts against Ebola

Medicago is pleased to join the international efforts against the Ebola virus. Medicago intends to demonstrate the comparable performance of its anti-Ebola antibodies to ZMapp™.

"Medicago's production platform has demonstrated its important potential for responding to international emergencies and pandemics when it produced candidate vaccines for H1N1 in 2009 and H7N9 in 2013," said Andy Sheldon, Medicago's CEO. "As governments around the world continue to face health threats like pandemic strains of influenza and Ebola viruses, we believe that Medicago can make a major contribution to rapid response, surge capacity and stockpiles across the globe."

Preliminary results have shown that Medicago's technology can rapidly produce anti-Ebola antibodies with high yields, thereby potentially boosting production volumes and worldwide supply.

In accordance with U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR 16.505 (b)(1)), this TOR allowed all four awardees of the DARPA ID/IQ contracts to compete. Medicago's ID/IQ contract was awarded in December 2012.

About Medicago

Medicago is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing novel vaccines and therapeutic proteins to address a broad range of infectious diseases worldwide. The company is committed to providing highly effective and competitive vaccines and therapeutic proteins based on its proprietary Virus-Like Particles (VLPs) and manufacturing technologies.

This technology has the potential to offer vaccines and therapeutics with speed and cost advantages over competitive technologies, enabling the development of products for testing within approximately one month after the identification and reception of genetic sequences. This production time frame has the potential to rapidly vaccinate or treat populations and supply large volumes of product to the global market. //www.medicago.com/

About BARDA

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), within the Office Of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in the U.S. Department Of Health and Human Services, provides an integrated, systematic approach to the development and purchase of the necessary vaccines, drugs, therapies, and diagnostic tools for public health medical emergencies. //www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/

For more information

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