



Press Release

Allergopharma and S-TARget therapeutics conclude licensing agreement

Objective is new generation of therapeutics for allergy treatment

Vienna, Austria, September 2, 2014 – Allergopharma, the Merck Business Unit Allergy, and S-TARget therapeutics (S-TARget), an Austrian biotechnology company which develops therapeutic preparations for all forms of allergies, have signed an exclusive licensing agreement. The main focus of this cooperation is the use of S-TARget's S-TIR™ technology and the associated development of a new generation of products for the causal treatment of allergies. The parties have agreed on confidentiality regarding the general terms and financial details of the transaction.

"We are pleased to have gained S-TARget as a partner. For Allergopharma, this is an important building block for our innovation-oriented strategy," said Marco Linari, CEO Allergopharma/Merck Business Unit Allergy. "With S-TARget's technology platform, we have great potential available to develop new therapeutic forms for the most significant allergens, such as dust mites and pollen. We will now be working very hard on the further development of the active ingredients based on the licensed technology platform. Our objective is to develop market-ready products as quickly as possible, so that we can better help patients suffering from allergies."

Christof Langer, CEO and co-founder of S-TARget, elaborated: "With strong positioning in the allergy sector, its close connections to the medical field and expertise in highly modern technologies for the development and manufacture of allergy preparations, Allergopharma is an excellent match for us. This cooperation gives us both the opportunity to advance the development of our innovative technology and bring new therapies onto the market."

With the signing of the agreement, Allergopharma, one of the leading manufacturers of therapeutics for specific immunotherapy for type 1 allergies like hay fever or allergic asthma, gains worldwide rights for the development and marketing of the envisaged products on the basis of S-TARget's S-TIR™ technology platform. Through this partnership, Allergopharma is investing more heavily in research, with the objective of developing a new generation of products for specific allergy therapeutics. Merck is continuing to invest in the highly attractive therapeutic area of allergies and is focused on innovation and the next generation of allergy therapy.

The market for allergy therapeutics (without symptomatic drugs) is a global growth market, in which Allergopharma is already one of today's market leaders. The worldwide growth expected by market observers is, on one hand, due to the increasing number of allergy sufferers and, on the other hand, is based on the increasing prevalence of specific immunotherapy in many emerging economies.

About S-TARget therapeutics

S-TARget therapeutics is a biotechnology start-up, which has been operating from its location in Vienna, Austria since 2009. The active ingredients developed by S-TARget are based on a company-owned technology platform, S-TIR™, which goes to the source of allergies, thereby not only relieving symptoms, but also aiding in the patient's recovery. SG100, which targets house dust mite, is the company's best-developed active ingredient. Since 2013 S-TARget has successfully expanded its Research & Development activities for S-TIR™ technology within the framework of a 100% spin-off to include clinical indications in oncology, auto-immune disease and infectious diseases.

S-TARget GmbH was founded in 2010 by immunologist Dr. Geert C. Mudde and biotechnologist Dr. Christof Langer, MBA. Both of the company's founders have extensive experience in pharmaceutical research, as well as



with managing internationally operating companies and start-ups. The development of S-TARget's S-TIR™ technology was supported by a wide variety of national and international funders.

For more information on S-TARget, go to www.s-target.com.

About Allergopharma

Allergopharma was founded in 1969 by Hermal and Joachim Ganzer in Reinbek, Hamburg. More than 480 employees work there today, of which more than 60 work in R&D.

Since 2013 Allergopharma has been fully integrated into Merck as the Business Unit Allergy. The managing director is Dr. Marco Linari. With the competency of a company operating on a global scale, Merck is striving in particular towards international expansion, strengthening business in Europe and the development of future products in the allergy business sector and intends make significant investments in this market segment.

The success of Allergopharma is mainly based on the hypoallergenic, high-dose preparations (allergoids), which can be used pre-seasonally or throughout the year. Some major advantages of the subcutaneous specific immunotherapy (SCIT) predominantly offered by Allergopharma is a close physician/patient relationship, good patient compliance and high degree of efficacy, as well as a positive cost-benefit ratio. Allergopharma is the global market leader in this area.

Specific immune therapy (SIT) – also known as hyper-sensitization – is generally recognized as the only causal form of treatment for allergies, and can prevent the progression of an allergy to asthma, as well as the development of new sensitizations and further allergies.

Allergopharma has developed into one of the world's leading research-driven pharmaceutical companies in the area of SIT with its claim to the highest quality standards in its work and the constant improvement in its products. Allergopharma is also well-equipped for the future as the company already holds a leading position in the development of biotechnologically manufactured allergens, so-called recombinant allergens.

For more information, go to www.allergopharma.de

About Merck

Merck is a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in the pharmaceutical and chemicals sectors. In 2013, Merck generated total revenues of approx. €11.1 billion with its four divisions, Merck Serono, Consumer Health, Performance Materials and Merck Millipore. Approximately 39,000 employees work for Merck in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for patients, to further the success of its customers and to make a contribution to the solution of global challenges. Merck is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company, and has stood for innovation, commercial success and corporate responsibility since 1668. The founding family retains a majority ownership of the company of around 70% to this day. Merck is based in Darmstadt, and owns the global rights to the Merck name and brand. Canada and the USA are exceptions, where the company is known under the brand name EMD.

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