Alnylam, Takeda Ink RNAi Deal

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Alnylam Pharmaceuticals and Takeda Pharmaceutical have formed a strategic platform alliance in RNAi therapeutics in the fields of oncology and metabolic disease with the option to expand to additional therapeutic areas. This landmark alliance is the first major RNAi therapeutics partnership between a Japanese pharmaceutical company and an American biotechnology company, representing a new frontier in the advancement of RNAi therapeutics to patients on a global basis.

RNAi is an entirely new approach for the discovery of breakthrough medicines that utilizes a natural mechanism found in the body to inhibit expression of certain genes. Harnessing the activity of RNAi creates a direct opportunity to develop specific and potent new medicines for the treatment of a broad range of diseases, including those that are difficult to treat with today’s drug approaches. The discovery of RNAi was awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize and the advancement of RNAi is recognized as one of the most important advances in biomedical sciences in decades.

Mr John Maraganore, chief executive officer of Alnylam, said: “We are very pleased and honored to have a strategic platform partnership with Takeda, one of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies. As the first RNAi technology partnership with a pharmaceutical company located in Asia, this new alliance expands the advancement of RNAi therapeutics to patients on a global basis. Across multiple dimensions, this new partnership is a major event in Alnylam’s efforts to build a leading biopharmaceutical company. A particularly important element in this new platform alliance is Alnylam’s opportunity to co-develop and co-commercialize Takeda RNAi therapeutic products with Takeda in the US market.”

Mr Yasuchika Hasegawa, president of Takeda, said: “We are excited to work with Alnylam, as the leading worldwide company in the field of RNAi therapeutics with a strong commitment to scientific excellence and an unparalleled intellectual property position. We believe this alliance will accelerate our initiatives to establish the foundation for RNAi drug discovery supported by Alnylam’s platform technologies and know-how. We expect that our product portfolio will be enhanced by the addition of RNAi therapeutics to our current small molecule and antibody research platforms.”
This collaboration provides Takeda with broad, worldwide, non-exclusive access to and enablement with Alnylam’s RNAi therapeutics platform technology and intellectual property in the fields of oncology and metabolic disease, with the right to expand the number of therapeutic fields in the future. The agreement also includes the transfer of platform technology from Alnylam to Takeda, a collaboration and cross-licensing of delivery technologies between the two companies, as well as a drug discovery collaboration on certain RNAi therapeutic targets, subject to certain Alnylam third party obligations.

Takeda becomes Alnylam’s strategic partner for RNAi therapeutics over a 5-year period and the only Asian company to obtain a right of first negotiation to develop and commercialize Alnylam RNAi therapeutic development programs for the Asian market, excluding Alnylam’s ALN-RSV01 program. In addition, Alnylam obtains opt-in options to co-develop and co-commercialize Takeda RNAi therapeutic programs in the US market on a 50-50 basis.

The partnership includes US$100 million in upfront payments and US$50 million in near-term technology transfer payments for a non-exclusive license in two therapeutic fields. The partnership is also valued at potentially over US$1 billion in future research and development and commercial milestones, upon successful commercialization of multiple products. At Takeda’s option, the scope of the partnership can be expanded to include additional fields with a US$50 million per field expansion payment. Alnylam is also eligible to receive research and development funding related to the drug discovery collaboration. In addition, Alnylam is eligible to receive up to US$171 million in development and commercial milestone payments, and significant royalties per product.

About Alnylam Pharmaceuticals
Alnylam is a biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics based on RNA interference, or RNAi. The company is applying its therapeutic expertise in RNAi to address significant medical needs, many of which cannot effectively be addressed with small molecules or antibodies, the current major classes of drugs. Alnylam is leading the translation of RNAi as a new class of innovative medicines with peer-reviewed research efforts published in the world’s top scientific journals including *Nature*, *Nature Medicine*, and *Cell*. The company is leveraging these capabilities to build a broad pipeline of RNAi therapeutics; its most advanced program is in Phase II human clinical trials for the treatment of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection. In addition, the company is developing RNAi therapeutics for the treatment of a wide range of disease areas, including hypercholesterolemia, liver cancers, and Huntington’s disease.

About Takeda Pharmaceutical
Founded in 1781 and located in Osaka, Japan, Takeda is a research-based global company with its main focus on pharmaceuticals. As the largest pharmaceutical company in Japan and one of the global leaders of the industry, Takeda is committed to striving toward better health for individuals and making progress in medicine by developing superior pharmaceutical products.