Boehringer Ingelheim has signed a licence agreement with Evec, Inc., Japan, for one of its fully-human therapeutic antibody programs. Based on the agreement, Boehringer Ingelheim will obtain worldwide exclusive development and commercialization rights for the complete program.

Prof Kenzo Takada, chairman of Evec, said: “We are excited to enter into this collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim, a world recognized player in the biotechnology arena. This agreement marks a significant milestone in the development of Evec. Evec is one of the first Japanese bioventure companies which has concluded a licence agreement with a western multinational pharmaceutical company. We believe that this will encourage the research and development of Japanese bioventure companies further.”

Dr Andreas Barner, co-chairman of the Board Corporate Division Pharma Research, Development and Medicine at Boehringer Ingelheim, said: “We are impressed by Evec’s technology of generating fully-human antibodies and are delighted to be one of the first western multinational pharmaceutical companies to enter into a licence agreement with a Japanese bioventure company. As a research-driven pharmaceutical company, Boehringer Ingelheim is committed to discovering and developing products which represent high therapeutic value. This collaboration has the potential to answer the patients’ and physicians’ need for new treatments that are both safe and efficacious.”

**About Evec**

Evec is a bioventure company established in 2003 and headquartered in Sapporo, Japan, spun off from Hokkaido University. Evec is specialized in development of a wide spectrum of human monoclonal antibodies in multiple therapeutic areas, such as cancer, inflammatory diseases and infectious diseases by an Epstein-Barr Virus Transformation Method.

**About Boehringer Ingelheim**

The Boehringer Ingelheim group is one of the world’s 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, it operates globally with 135 affiliates in 47 countries and 39,800 employees. Since it was founded in 1885, the family-owned company has been committed to researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine.

In 2007, Boehringer Ingelheim posted net sales of €10.9 billion (US$13.84 billion) while spending one fifth of net sales in its largest business segment, Prescription Medicines, on research and development.