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Lectus Therapeutics announces strategic investment from Takeda Research Investment to advance discovery programmes for *next-generation* ion channel drugs

Lectus Therapeutics Limited (Lectus; www.lectustherapeutics.com), an emerging UK-based bio-pharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of next-generation ion channel modulators, announced today it had secured a strategic investment from Takeda Research Investment Inc. (TRI) to advance its core ion channel drug discovery and development programmes. Full details of the terms of the strategic partnership between Lectus and TRI were not disclosed.

Lectus is set to exploit the power of its unique proprietary functional proteomics platform, LEPTICS™ (Leveraged Enabling Proteomics Technology for Ion Channel Screening), to develop next-generation ion channel modulators that offer an enhanced safety profile for the treatment of disorders related to smooth muscle hyperreactivity. Lectus will initially focus on the development of its programmes in Urinary Bladder Disorders, Angina and Hypertension.

TRI (Palo Alto, CA, USA) is the corporate venture arm of Takeda Chemical Industries Ltd. (TCI), the largest pharmaceutical company in Japan. TRI began operations in 2002 with the mission to support early stage biotechnology ventures through capital investment and the provision of access to the resources of Takeda.

Roland Kozlowski, co-founder and CEO of Lectus said, "This strategic partnership with TRI is a huge endorsement of the company's technology and commercial strategy. With the investment from TRI and the competitive advantages afforded by LEPTICS™, a technology which clearly differentiates Lectus from other ion channel businesses, the company is positioned to exploit ion channel drug targets that are otherwise inaccessible to existing technologies. This will enable Lectus to advance both its own programmes, as well as those of its partners, other pharmaceutical and biotech companies, and boosts the company's anticipated valuation to several million dollars."

Koichi Kato, President and CEO of TRI added, "Our philosophy is to invest in early stage companies founded on excellent science, and managed by a team with a track-record of success. Lectus is a natural fit for our portfolio, and we are delighted to work with the company to accelerate the development and implementation of LEPTICS™. We believe this innovative technology offers significant promise for pharmaceutical discovery in areas of key strategic importance for Takeda."

Notes for editors

About Ion Channels

Ion channels are commercially validated therapeutic or drug targets. The majority of currently marketed ion channel drugs, whose sales are in excess of \$10 billion in areas of bladder disorders, angina and hypertension, affect the pore-forming domains (PFD) of ion channels which are not easily differentiated pharmacologically. This lack of selectivity has contributed to the lack of progression to and through development of many ion channel drug candidates. Lectus has designated such drugs as **first-generation ion channel modulators**. It has now become established that ion channels are also regulated by accessory proteins that bind to the PFD. There are many different types of accessory protein, which can form a large number of preferable combinations with the PFD. Therefore, compounds that modulate these interactions are anticipated to be more selective. Lectus has designated such compounds as **next-generation ion channel modulators and are expected to have an improved safety profile**.

About Lectus Therapeutics

Lectus Therapeutics Limited (LTL) is an emerging UK-based bio-pharmaceutical company, which began operations in the summer of 2003, specialising in the discovery and development of novel drugs for diseases associated with smooth muscle hyper reactivity, specifically urinary bladder disorders, angina and hypertension. LTL's vision is to become a world leader in developing ion channel therapeutics with an enhanced safety profile.

LTL will exploit the power of its proprietary functional proteomics platform, LEPTICS™ (Leveraged Enabling Proteomics Technology for Ion Channel Screening), and build on its knowledge of ion channels and protein-protein interactions, to develop next-generation ion channel modulators that offer important clinical and economic advantages over existing therapies. LEPTICS™ is a high-throughput screening assay that utilises correctly folded, functional ion channel accessory proteins immobilised on a solid surface. Small molecules can be screened against these accessory proteins in order to identify compounds that modulate the interaction between ion channel accessory proteins and the pore-forming domain counterparts of ion channels.

Lectus was founded by Drs Roland Z. Kozlowski and V. Paul Gerskowitch, who between them have considerable biotech and pharma experience. A team of industry-seasoned professionals and advisors has also been recruited to help progress the business.

Lectus previously closed a seed financing deal from the SULIS seedcorn fund in November 2003. The company is currently carrying out its research within a dedicated facility at the University of Bristol prior to establishing its own premises.

About Takeda Research Investment Inc. (TRI)

Takeda Research Investment Inc. is the corporate venture arm of Takeda Chemical Industries Ltd., with headquarters in Osaka, Japan. TRI, situated in the heart of Silicon Valley's investment community, typically invests in early stage biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in North America, Canada and Europe. The aim is to inject capital to help proven management teams translate quality concepts into reality, accelerating the development of next-generation technologies and therapeutic products in areas of substantial unmet medical need.

TRI's portfolio companies are focused on areas of key strategic importance to Takeda, with an emphasis on technologies and therapeutics that offer the promise of delivering new, innovative medicines in oncology, cardiovascular disease, central nervous system disorders and metabolic diseases.

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