



NiKem Research Srl Becomes Entitled to a “Candidate Selection” Milestone Payment by Wyeth

Milan, December 6th, 2007 – NiKem Research Srl, an Italian Drug Discovery service provider, announced today the release of a milestone payment by Wyeth, corresponding to the selection of a matrix metalloprotease inhibitor as a preclinical candidate for an ongoing research project in the anti-inflammatory therapeutic area. Since the inception of this project, NiKem has provided Wyeth with the medicinal chemistry manpower, platform and expertise needed to progress early hits up to the current candidate status.

Both the financial terms of the Service Agreement between NiKem and Wyeth, and the milestone payment amount were not disclosed.

Giuseppe Giardina, CEO of NiKem, said "Our long-standing collaboration with Wyeth has rewarded both parties in more than one occasion, and the award of a milestone payment to NiKem is just the tip of the iceberg. What's more important to us is that a top notch, big pharmaceutical player such as Wyeth consistently shows its belief in NiKem; and that our efforts produce validated hits, optimized leads and preclinical candidates which often pass the stringent selection criteria at Wyeth. We wish further success to this candidate in its path towards the market, and we welcome the challenges ahead with regard to other collaborative efforts between Wyeth and NiKem."

Pierfausto Seneci, CBO of NiKem, said "By achieving success in this business opportunity with Wyeth, NiKem once more proves that its competence and skills, and its Drug Discovery platform may become instrumental in reaching meaningful objectives in challenging Drug Discovery projects; and that our right mix of quality and cost-effectiveness makes our offer very competitive. We welcome other pharmaceutical and biotech companies to try us, and we guarantee that any business model which makes sense to a potential client will be used by us to generate an attractive business proposition."

About NiKem Research

Based on decades of drug discovery experience and now operating at biotech speed, NiKem Research offers a full range of drug discovery services to the pharmaceutical industry. In addition to its expertise in medicinal chemistry (hit validation, hit to lead and lead optimization, iterative and parallel synthesis), NiKem Research provides its clients with computational and analytical chemistry support, early ADMET services, biochemical screening and in vivo DMPK. NiKem Research usually operates as a classical fee-for-service partner, but other business relationships (i.e., project- or assay-based) are also acceptable. For further information visit www.nikemresearch.com

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