



Press Release October 21, 2021

Genovis announces exclusive license agreement with Selecta Bioscience to develop and promote a novel IgG Protease in Gene Therapy and Autoimmune Disease

Under the agreement Genovis grants Selecta exclusive license to develop and promote a proprietary IgG protease, Xork™, as a potential pre-treatment prior to the administration of gene therapy and for autoimmune diseases.

Under the terms of the license:

- **Genovis will receive USD 6 million in upfront and early preclinical milestone payments and is eligible for up to USD 598 million in development, regulatory and sales milestone payments. Additionally, Genovis will receive double digit royalties on sales.**
- **Genovis will retain its rights to the Xork enzyme for all applications outside therapeutic use to support its core enzyme innovation business within discovery, preclinical research, diagnostics and bioprocess markets.**

Genovis AB (GENO), a world leader enzyme technology innovator company, and Selecta Biosciences, Inc. (NASDAQ: SELB), a biotechnology company leveraging its clinically validated ImmTOR™ platform to develop tolerogenic therapies that selectively mitigate unwanted immune responses today announced a strategic licensing agreement to advance a next-generation IgG protease. This partnership leverages Genovis' proprietary immunoglobulin G (IgG) protease, Xork, and Selecta's ImmTOR platform to enable the dosing of transformative gene therapies in patients with pre-existing adeno-associated virus (AAV) immunity and treat certain IgG-mediated autoimmune diseases.

Most IgG proteases are derived from human pathogens and have a high prevalence of pre-existing antibodies. Xork is derived from a streptococcal bacterial strain that does not infect humans. The pre-clinical data generated to date highlights Xork's differentiated profile - demonstrating very low cross-reactivity with naturally occurring antibodies in human sera while retaining efficient and specific cleavage of human IgG antibodies.

Currently, pre-existing IgG antibodies against AAV gene therapy vectors are a major exclusion criterion for AAV gene therapy eligibility, affecting upwards of 40% of the population. Additionally, de novo immunogenicity that follows treatment by AAV gene therapy results in the formation of high titers of neutralizing antibodies. These neutralizing antibodies preclude re-treatment of those patients who may need additional dosing to maintain therapeutic benefit. The combination of Xork and ImmTOR has the potential to both mitigate pre-existing antibodies to AAV, expanding access to gene therapy to a wider range of patients, and prevent de novo immunogenicity, keeping patients eligible for re-treatment. Together, this novel combination has the potential to address two of the key hurdles in gene therapy today.

Additionally, bacterial-derived IgG proteases are themselves immunogenic. Currently, IgG proteases can only be administered once due to the formation of high titer antibodies against the protease itself. The combination of Xork and ImmTOR is further differentiated by the potential of ImmTOR to mitigate the immunogenicity of Xork and enable re-dosing of Xork, an important benefit for the application of IgG proteases in autoimmune diseases mediated by pathogenic autoantibodies.



“We see this strategic collaboration with Genovis as an important step in expanding our pipeline of novel therapeutics in combination with our ImmTOR platform,” said Carsten Brunn, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Selecta. “Our preclinical findings in gene therapy indicate that ImmTOR has the potential to increase transgene expression and durability, enable re-dosing by inhibiting the formation of neutralizing antibodies and potentially lead to safer, more efficacious gene therapy treatment regimens. The partnership between Selecta and Genovis focuses on those patients who would otherwise be unable to be treated due to preexisting immunity to AAV. The combination of ImmTOR with Xork has the potential to significantly expand access to life changing gene therapies for those patients in need.”

Fredrik Olsson, chief executive officer of Genovis, commented, “We are excited to partner with Selecta as we look to expand into the gene therapy field and address the challenge of pre-existing immunity to AAV vectors. While IgG proteases have shown promise, overcoming the immunogenicity of the enzyme remains a significant hurdle. We believe Selecta’s ImmTOR platform, which is designed to mitigate unwanted immune responses, in combination with Xork has the potential to be transformational in both gene therapies and autoimmune diseases.”

About Selecta Biosciences, Inc.

Selecta Biosciences Inc. (NASDAQ: SELB) is a clinical stage biotechnology company leveraging its ImmTOR platform to develop tolerogenic therapies that selectively mitigate unwanted immune responses. With a proven ability to induce tolerance to highly immunogenic proteins, ImmTOR has the potential to amplify the efficacy of biologic therapies, including redosing of life-saving gene therapies, as well as restore the body’s natural self-tolerance in autoimmune diseases. Selecta has several proprietary and partnered programs in its pipeline focused on enzyme therapies, gene therapies, and autoimmune diseases. Selecta Biosciences is headquartered in the Greater Boston area. For more information, please visit www.selectabio.com.

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About Genovis AB

Business concept is to apply its knowledge and customer driven innovation to design and provide tools for the development of the drugs of the future. Today Genovis sells several enzyme products known as SmartEnzymes™ all over the world in innovative product formats that facilitate development and quality control of biological drugs. The Group consists of Genovis AB and the wholly owned subsidiary Genovis Inc. (US). Genovis shares are listed on Nasdaq First North Growth Market and Erik Penser Bank is the Company’s Certified Adviser, certifiedadviser@penser.se, tel: +46 (0)8-463 83 00.

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