



**PRESS RELEASE: 2 August 2004**

## **Lectus Therapeutics announces chemistry collaboration with Evotec OAI**

Lectus Therapeutics Limited (Lectus; [www.lectustherapeutics.com](http://www.lectustherapeutics.com)), an emerging UK-based biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of *next-generation* ion channel modulators, announced today that it had entered into a chemistry collaboration with Evotec OAI (Frankfurt Stock Exchange: EVT, TecDAX 30). Under the terms of the agreement, Evotec OAI will supply Lectus with medicinal chemistry resources to advance its core ion channel drug discovery and development programmes in urinary bladder disorders, angina and hypertension.

Lectus identifies *next-generation* ion channel modulators by exploiting the power of its proprietary functional proteomics platform, LEPTICS™ (Leveraged Enabling Proteomics Technology for Ion Channel Screening). Development of *next-generation* ion channel modulators are expected to offer an enhanced safety profile for the treatment of disorders related to smooth muscle hyperreactivity.

Evotec OAI (Hamburg, Germany and Oxford, UK) is established as the leading partner for integrated high-value-added drug discovery and development solutions for biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. Through a comprehensive range of capabilities and innovative technology platforms that integrate world-class biology and chemistry capabilities the company offers services from assay development and screening through to compound optimisation and drug manufacturing services.

Roland Kozlowski, co-founder and CEO of Lectus commented, "The deal with Evotec will allow Lectus to rapidly accelerate its own discovery and development agenda and provides further endorsement for the strength and capabilities within Lectus, which following a recent investment by Takeda Research Investment, is now set to become a significant player in the sector. We were very pleased with Evotec OAI's business development team who handled the relationship with Lectus very professionally and quickly understood the needs of an emerging company. As a result they structured a tailored deal that fitted with our requirements whilst providing us with best in class resources to drive forward medicinal chemistry programmes for identification of next-generation ion channel modulators"

Dr Mark Ashton, President Drug Discovery Services of Evotec OAI added, "Evotec OAI was very impressed with both Lectus Therapeutics' technology, uniquely developed for identification of next-generation ion channel modulators, and the company's underpinning commercial strategy. We are pleased that they have chosen us as their partner to support them in producing compounds likely to have significant economic and clinical advantages over existing types of ion channel modulator".

## Notes to Editors

### About Ion Channels

Ion channels are commercially validated therapeutic or drug targets. The majority of currently marketed ion channel drugs, whose worldwide 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 (Lectus) 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. Lectus's vision is to become a world leader in developing ion channel therapeutics with an enhanced safety profile.

Lectus 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 recently (May 2004) announced a strategic investment from Takeda Research Investment, the investment arm of Takeda Chemical Industries. In addition, 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 Evotec OAI

Evotec OAI has established itself as the partner of choice for drug discovery and development solutions for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide, maintaining its leadership role through innovation and unmatched customer service.

The Company's business strategy is clearly focussed on drug discovery. It has established the most comprehensive technology platform and skills that integrate its world-class biology and chemistry capabilities. Evotec OAI leverages this discovery engine in providing assay development and screening through to compound optimisation and drug manufacturing services to a broad and well-established net-work of customers. In addition, the Company engages in selected discovery programmes itself to develop drug candidates for early out-licensing. Evotec OAI's instrument and technology business is now successfully handled by its affiliate, Evotec Technologies.

With over 600 people in Hamburg, Germany and Oxfordshire, UK, Evotec OAI is dedicated to returning value to its shareholders and employees through a sustain-able business strategy that balances short-term and long-term revenue opportunities.

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