



Velabs Therapeutics enters into a screening cooperation with Chiome Bioscience in the field of GPCR-specific functional antibody screening after successful feasibility study

Heidelberg, Germany, August 27, 2019 - Velabs Therapeutics, specializing in the fast generation of functional therapeutic antibodies, today announced that its cooperation with Chiome Bioscience, Inc., Tokyo, will be deepened, to jointly discover modulatory and functional antibodies for one of Chiome's GPCR target genes. The collaboration will capitalize on Velabs' microfluidics-based technology in the field of functional antibody screening. Under the terms of the agreement and after successful completion of an initial feasibility phase, Velabs will receive milestone payments upon the achievement of specific development and regulatory events. In addition, Velabs will also be eligible to receive tiered royalties and milestones on the worldwide sales of products that arise from the collaboration.

Chiome Bioscience is a leading expert in the discovery and development of therapeutic antibodies for clinical applications with unmet medical need. The company has the exclusive license of the ADLib® antibody generation technology from RIKEN and has several preclinical and clinical development programs for its therapeutic antibodies.

Velabs Therapeutics, a recent startup company of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and financed by Swiss based Xlife Sciences Ltd., is a pioneer in microfluidic technology for screening of antibodies with modulatory function on complex signal proteins like GPCRs or ion channels. The high-throughput screening platform allows for testing millions of correctly paired fully natural IgGs from humans and mice for therapeutic effects, rather than just for binding. Results are obtained in only a fraction of the time required by other technologies. The company offers customized screening services for users worldwide. Besides carrying out service projects, Velabs is currently also establishing its own proprietary pipeline of therapeutic antibody candidates for further joint development with pharma partners.

"We are delighted about the successful termination of the initial feasibility phase and the current start of a joint development on functional GPCR antibodies.", says Christoph Antz, Managing Director of Velabs. "Chiome's decision to continue this project after a successful feasibility study represents an important validation of our technology for the screening and generation of functional antibodies on complex signal proteins like GPCRs." adds Christoph Merten, scientific founder and CSO of Velabs.

"We opted for Velabs' microfluidic screening technology in order to optimize time and productivity of discovering therapeutic antibodies against GPCRs. We look forward to obtaining promising hits, which can ultimately give rise to preclinical candidates through this collaboration", says Yukoh Nakazaki, Head of Antibody Research Laboratories of Chiome Bioscience.

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About Velabs Therapeutics

Velabs Therapeutics is a spin-out company launched by Europe's most renowned institute for life sciences research, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and its technology transfer arm EMBLEM Technology Transfer (EMBLEM). The institute has an outstanding track record in instrumentation development and is at the forefront of microfluidics-based screening technology and applications world-wide. The company's droplet-based microfluidic screening technology aims at the fast generation of antibodies against target molecules presented on cellular membrane surfaces or as soluble protein. VELABS has pioneered the use of droplet microfluidics for the fast screening of correctly paired human antibodies that do not just bind to a drug target, but rather modulate its function. For more information, please visit www.velabs-therapeutics.com.

About Chiome Bioscience

Chiome Bioscience is a clinical stage biotechnology company. Chiome's focus is on discovery and development of antibody-based therapeutics in the disease areas with unmet medical needs. Currently it is advancing two programs in oncology. Chiome has proprietary antibody generating technology named ADLib® System and has several antibody discovery and preclinical programs. Chiome was founded in 2005, is listed in Tokyo stock exchange Mothers (code: 4583), and located in Tokyo, Japan. For more information, please visit www.chiome.co.jp