



## **In-Cell-Art Announces Execution of Evaluation Agreement with an Asia-Pacific listed Pharmaceutical Company**

**Nantes – France, 3rd of December, 2014** – In-Cell-Art, a biotechnology company specializing in nanocarrier technologies called Nanotaxi® for macromolecules (DNA, RNA, Protein) has entered an evaluation study with a clinical stage listed pharmaceutical company. The companies will explore application of In-Cell-Art's Nanotaxi® to a clinically-validated therapeutic platform for development of innovative nucleic acid-based vaccines.

Under the terms of agreement, In-Cell-Art agreed to use its proprietary Nanotaxi® and specific patents for proprietary formulations, and its accumulated experience and know-how for the delivery of macromolecules in order to evaluate the use of In-Cell-Art technologies in conjunction with a therapeutic platform in the field of infectious diseases.

Bruno Pitard, head of Scientific Advisory Board and co-founder of In-Cell-Art, said “In-Cell-Art is thrilled about this opportunity to collaborate with this new partner and explore the potential of In-Cell-Art nanocarrier technologies with their proprietary platform. In-Cell-Art believes that the Nanotaxi® can further improve the efficacy of nucleic acid-based vaccines where In-Cell-Art has accumulated experience”.

### **About In-Cell-Art**

In-Cell-Art (ICA), which is headquartered in Nantes (France) is a biopharmaceutical company specializing in the preclinical and pharmaceutical development of nanocarriers named Nanotaxi ® for macromolecular drugs. Its founder and research team, which includes a Nobel Laureate, have designed new classes of vectors that are organized on a nanometric scale, which enables them to cross the cell barrier efficiently and safely. In-Cell-Art offers a range of reagents and biotechnology development services:

#### **1. ICANTibodies™**

In the absence of recombinant antigen, ICANTibodies™ allows, from an in silico DNA antigenic sequence, the production of the most ambitious functional antibodies against any natively expressed nuclear, cytoplasmic, secreted or membrane proteins. ICANTibodies™ has allowed, in less than 3 years, the production of more than 300 different functional antibodies. In-Cell-Art has worked with a number of pharmaceutical firms (Sanofi, GlaxoSmithKline, Geneuro etc.) and public research institutions and universities (Institut Cochin, Cancer Research UK, Institute of Neurology UK etc).

## **2. ICA Nanotaxi®**

- DNA Vaccine

ICA614 Nanotaxi®, an innovative DNA synthetic formulation, offers unique efficient and industrial features such as the dramatic enhancement of the immunogenicity of plasmid DNA-encoding tumours or pathogen-derived antigens, a reduction in the dose of plasmid DNA, as well as an excellent safety profile. ICA614 Nanotaxi® represents a crucial step in DNA vaccine development, and is currently being tested by major vaccine companies (Sanofi-Pasteur, Merial etc.).

- mRNA Vaccine

Some other ICA Nanotaxi® are also being assessed in \$33.1 million RN-ARMORVAX consortium, co-funded by US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The consortium would validate the new application of ICA Nanotaxi® for mRNA-based vaccines for infectious diseases in collaboration with CureVac and Sanofi-Pasteur.

- mRNA Replacement Therapy

Some other ICA Nanotaxi® are also developed to improve the limited efficacy and stability of mRNA therapeutics, leading to the dramatic increase in therapeutic protein expression without DNA-encoded gene.

## **3. ICAFectin® transfection reagents**

ICAFectin® transfection reagents are innovative breakthrough synthetic vectors for in vitro nucleic acid delivery. They are becoming the reagents of choice for efficient DNA and siRNA transfections as demonstrated by their increasing use in numerous studies published in high impact factor journals including Journal of Biological Chemistry, Nucleic Acids Research, PLOS ONE, PLOS Pathogen, Human Gene Therapy, Cell reports, EMBO Jand more.

In-Cell-Art is a privately held company, which was founded in 2005. It is a member of the Atlanpole Biotherapies high-tech cluster of biotechnology companies in western France.

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