



## **In-Cell-Art Announces Execution of Pilot Research Studies Agreement with Japanese Biopharmaceutical Company**

**Nantes – France, 16th of July, 2014** – In-Cell-Art (ICA), a biotechnology company specializing in nanocarrier technologies called Nanotaxi® for macromolecules (DNA, mRNA, Protein) has entered a Pilot Research Study with a commercial stage Japanese biopharmaceutical company. The companies will explore application of ICA's Nanotaxi® which can dramatically increase gene expression to a clinically-highly validated therapeutic agent for development of innovative gene medicines.

Under the terms of agreement, ICA agreed to bring its highly technical competencies and unique resources in the discipline of nucleic acid delivery which have been developed over 20 years of research, and specific patents for formulation and targeting of nucleic acids to host cells in a controlled manner in order to evaluate the use of ICA technologies in conjunction with a validated human therapeutic agent of the partner.

Bruno Pitard, co-founder of ICA, said “We are very excited to support the Japanese biopharmaceutical company with Nanotaxi® which can provide many advantages over alternative approaches. It is very simple and economical to produce while it can be administered by a normal syringe and needle without any special physical device. So, we believe Nanotaxi® is very suitable to apply for further improvement of clinically-validated gene medicines”.

### **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 and 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.

For further information please contact;

In-Cell-Art

Sohei Fukuyama, Business Development and Alliance Management

Tel: 33 (0)2 40 71 67 17

E-mail: [sohei.fukuyama@incellart.com](mailto:sohei.fukuyama@incellart.com)

Website : <http://www.incellart.com>