



Press Release

ugichem and Cenix BioScience sign research agreement on development of novel gene silencing technology

INNSBRUCK, Austria, and DRESDEN, Germany; August 31, 2011 – ugichem GmbH, a gene silencing company with an innovative chemistry approach dedicated to expanding the current RNA therapeutics space, and Cenix BioScience GmbH, a leading contract research provider and technology developer specialized in RNAi-, microRNA- and high content-driven pharmacology, today announced that they have entered into a research agreement to advance ugichem's technology platform.

Under the agreed work plan, Cenix will apply its long-standing expertise in combining gene silencing analyses with high content screening in cultured cells. Cenix will adapt and implement multi-parametric microscopy-based assays using the *Definiens XD* image analysis system, to facilitate characterization and optimization of ugichem's so-called *Ugimer* lead compounds.

"We highly welcome Cenix' expert know-how," said Dr. Holger Bock, CEO of ugichem. "This project will strengthen the establishment and validation of our proprietary *Ugimer* chemistry, to further develop and expand what we think is the only new and promising chemistry approach to RNA therapeutics".

"We are excited to launch this new relationship with ugichem and look forward to helping them advance their development programs," said Dr. Christophe Echeverri, CEO/CSO of Cenix. "As we have successfully done for over a decade now, we expect that our specialist expertise and capabilities in this area will uniquely accelerate this innovative technology's maturation".

About ugichem GmbH

ugichem is developing proprietary new gene silencing therapeutics, the so-called *Ugimers*, which allow to overcome all shortcomings of established gene silencing technologies such as antisense oligonucleotides or siRNAs. In contrast to the latter, *Ugimers* are not derived from natural nucleic acids but exclusively designed towards function. As a result cells currently inaccessible with standard gene silencing technologies or even defined cellular compartments become targetable by *Ugimers* without the need for additional delivery tools. ugichem's mission is to establish *Ugimers* as a new class of top-grade medicines, initially focusing on indications requiring targeting of immune cells which are currently not functionally accessible by standard gene silencing compounds. ugichem will further extend its *Ugimer* gene silencing technology into a therapeutic product platform dedicated to indications that are based on altered gene expression. For additional information, visit the company's web site: www.ugichem.com

About Cenix BioScience GmbH

Cenix BioScience conducts contract research and technology development focused on cell-based and *in vivo* applications of RNA interference (RNAi), miRNA modulation and high content phenotyping to accelerate target discovery, target validation, and the non-clinical development of new drug candidates. Now in its 12th year, Cenix has built up leading scientific and commercial track records, successfully progressing therapeutic programs for numerous industry and academic partners in a wide range of disease fields. This success is anchored in the consistent application of scientific and technical best practices in fully customized, multi-staged projects designed to offer maximal strategic value with full data transparency and carefully minimized risk. For more information, visit the company's web site: www.cenix-bioscience.com

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