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next generation pharmaceuticals and proteomics

Press Release

4SC and Nexigen Receive €1.4 million Funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to Develop Peptide Cancer Therapeutics

Bonn and Planegg-Martinsried, Germany – 16 April, 2010 – 4SC AG (Frankfurt, Prime Standard: VSC), a drug discovery and development company focused on autoimmune and cancer indications, and the Bonn (Germany) based Nexigen GmbH, a company which conducts the discovery and development of novel peptide compounds for cancer, today announced their cooperation. The joint project aims to develop novel peptide cancer therapeutics and is being funded with €1.4 million by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung – BMBF) under the KMU-Innovation Programme.

The objective of the collaboration is the development of novel peptide therapies for the treatment of cancers that are linked to the Wnt signaling pathway. The dysfunction of this signaling pathway is particularly prevalent in colon and prostate cancer cells. This approach may establish a new class of peptide based therapeutics for the treatment of cancers such as colon and prostate tumours, for which the prognosis is especially low and current therapeutic treatment options are not sufficient.

In this cooperation Nexigen will apply its proprietary intracellular peptides screening technology to identify novel molecules. These should, with the support of 4SC's technology and development expertise, advance into the clinical development phase.

"We are very happy about the dual support of our proprietary peptide based approach through the external validation of the BMBF funding and the cooperation with 4SC. With this the unique combination of Nexigen's peptide platform and 4SC's technology and development expertise has gained a sustainable base," said Dr. Hanjo Hennemann, founder and Managing Director of Nexigen.

"With this cooperation and the support of the BMBF, 4SC has the possibility to develop a new class of peptide therapeutics," commented Daniel Vitt, Chief Scientific Officer of 4SC. "Such therapeutics could affect disease targets that are not currently treatable with classical chemotherapy or with antibodies."

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Notes to Editor

About Nexigen

Nexigen GmbH identifies and develops peptide based therapeutics primarily for cancer. The company is focused on affecting disease mechanisms that cannot be treated with current therapeutics, such as small-molecules and antibodies. Nexigen's technology is based on a proprietary, patented screening system of peptides in living cells. In order to optimise peptide compounds the technology platform integrates bioinformatic, cellular *in vitro* test systems as well as peptide chemistry. Nexigen has already completed a number of projects with big pharma and biotechnology companies.

Nexigen's strategy is based on the development of its own compounds and selective partnerships in the life-science industry.

Nexigen (www.nexigen.de) has 14 employees and was established in 2007 as a spin-off from the caesar research institute in Bonn, Germany.

About 4SC

4SC AG (ISIN DE0005753818) is a drug discovery and development company focused on autoimmune and cancer indications. Vidofludimus (4SC-101), a small molecule, is currently in a Phase IIb study in rheumatoid arthritis and a Phase IIa exploratory study in inflammatory bowel disease. The company's lead oncology compound, resminostat (4SC-201), a pan histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor, is in Phase II trials in hepatocellular carcinoma and Hodgkin's lymphoma. Two further oncology compounds, 4SC-203 and 4SC-205, are in Phase I studies. 4SC develops drug candidates until proof-of-concept in order to generate value creating partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry in return for advance and milestone payments as well as royalties.

4SC was founded in 1997, has 91 employees, and is listed on the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange since December 2005.

You will find further information under www.4sc.com.

Legal Note

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