



FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“SpiderBiotech and NeED Pharmaceuticals enter collaboration agreement on novel antimicrobial peptides”

Ivrea, Italy and Milan, Italy–February 3rd, 2007: SpiderBiotech Srl and NeED Pharmaceuticals Srl today signed a collaboration agreement for the preclinical development of novel tetrabranched peptides, covered by SpiderBiotech’s intellectual property, for the treatment of serious infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria. These new peptides, originally isolated by phage-display selection, possess potent, protease-stable antimicrobial activity that has been demonstrated in vitro and in vivo against clinically relevant Gram-negative bacteria including isolates resistant to currently used antibiotics. This class of molecules acts through mechanisms involving the interaction with the negative charged bacterial membranes, mimicking the behavior of natural antimicrobial peptides. The dendrimeric structure of these new peptides enhances the in vivo efficacy due to their polyvalent interactions, and confers resistance to proteases and peptidases which translates into a favourable pharmacokinetic profile. These synthetic molecules are expected to overcome the urgent problem of bacterial resistance to conventional antibiotics.

Andrea Giuliani, President and CEO of SpiderBiotech Srl, said, “We are delighted to enter into agreement with NeED Pharmaceuticals and we believe that the proven and extensive experience of NeED Pharmaceuticals in drug development of novel antiinfective drugs will enable us to accelerate the exploitation of the therapeutic potential of our panel of SB006-based antimicrobial peptides”.

The terms of the agreement have not been disclosed.

About SpiderBiotech

SpiderBiotech is a privately owned biotechnology company, engaged in the discovery and development of therapeutic multimeric peptides and peptidomimetics in the fields of bacterial infections. SpiderBiotech holds an exclusive worldwide license from the University of Siena to develop novel tetrabranched peptides that showed to be potent, protease-stable antimicrobial agents with in vitro and in vivo activity against bacteria known to cause nosocomial Gram-negative infections. SpiderBiotech was founded 2005, is located within the Bioindustry Park of Canavese (Ivrea, TURIN), and is supported by Eporgen Venture Spa.

Additional information on SpiderBiotech can be obtained from either:
www.spiderbiotech.com or by email: info@spiderbiotech.com

About NeED Pharmaceuticals

NeED Pharmaceuticals is a biopharmaceutical Company focused on the discovery and development of novel anti-infective drugs for the treatment of serious and neglected infectious diseases, where a large unmet medical need and market opportunity are clearly present.

NeED has already a portfolio of intellectual property and know how, generated by internal research or by acquisitions.

NeED people have an extensive and proven international experience in infectious diseases, going from discovery to marketing, and an extensive academic and business network.

Additional information on NeED Pharmaceuticals can be obtained from either:
www.needpharma.com or by email: info@needpharma.com

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