

Press release

For immediate publication

Okapi Sciences enters into a license agreement to develop and commercialise the world's first antiviral veterinary drug

Agreement supports the further development of Okapi Sciences' first veterinary drug

Leuven, Belgium - 22 August 2013 - Okapi Sciences NV ('Okapi Sciences'), a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing innovative antiviral treatments for animals, announces today that it has entered into an exclusive agreement with Novartis Animal Health for the joint development and commercialisation of an antiviral treatment for cats. This novel drug will potentially be the world's first antiviral small molecule specifically developed for veterinary use.

In close collaboration with Novartis Animal Health, Okapi Sciences is responsible for finalising the clinical development work and applying for marketing authorisation at the European Medicines Agency and the US Food and Drug Administration. Under the terms of the agreement Okapi Sciences will receive payments if milestones are achieved, as well as royalties on any eventual sales of the product. Financial details were not disclosed.

Erwin Blomsma, CEO of Okapi Sciences, commented: "Today's collaborative deal with Novartis Animal Health is a major milestone for Okapi Sciences. Novartis Animal Health is the ideal partner for our product." Nesya Goris, chief scientist at Okapi Sciences, added: "It is exciting to join forces with the Novartis team in bringing this antiviral drug through the final stage of development and into the market."

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Note for editors

About Okapi Sciences

Okapi Sciences is a biopharmaceutical company specialising in the development of drugs for the treatment or prevention of viral infections in animals. The company was founded in 2008 as a spin-off of KU Leuven (Belgium), the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry in Prague (Czech Republic) and the University of Liège (Belgium). Current investors are Agri Investment Fund, Thuja Capital, BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity Arkimedes, KeBeK Arkiv, PMV, Gemma Frisius Fonds and Spinventure. Okapi Sciences collaborates closely with contract research firms and academic groups. www.okapi-sciences.com.

More information

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