

Deinove's antibiotics project receives €1.35 million from OSEO Innovation, the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Council, the French government's Interministerial Fund and the European Regional Development Fund

*The €2.6 million Deinove-led **Deinobiotics** antibiotics discovery and development project will address multi-resistant infections. Deinove and its partners, Nosopharm and two French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) labs in Montpellier and Marseilles, will receive a total of €1.35 million in grants and loans.*

Paris, November 15, 2010 – [Deinove](#) (Alternext Paris: ALDEI), the world's leading specialist in *Deinococcus* bacteria for biofuels, green chemistry and antibiotics, today announced that its Deinobiotics project is to receive a total of €1.35 million in grants and loans.

The Deinobiotics project is accredited by the [Eurobiomed](#) cluster as part of the 9th call for proposals by the French government's competitiveness clusters programme, funded by the Interministerial Fund (FUI). The project consortium comprises Deinove (as the project leader), the Nîmes-based biotech company [Nosopharm](#) (a specialist in antibiotic screening), the [CPBS](#) (a joint CNRS-University of Montpellier 1 lab for pathogenic agent studies) and the [Institute for Structural Genomics](#) (CNRS Marseilles).

The funding will be distributed as follows: Deinove will receive € 0.7 million in grants and reimbursable loans from Oseo (the French state innovation agency), the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Council and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); the FUI will grant € 0.11 million to Nosopharm, € 0.2 million for the IGS and € 0.34 million to the CPBS. Deinove will own a worldwide, exclusive licence to all the intellectual property rights generated in the Deinobiotics project. The company intends to subsequently leverage these rights through exclusive licensing to a pharmaceutical company.

Health authorities are now confronted with a major antibiotics crisis: the number of novel antibiotic compounds being discovered is falling rapidly, whereas (in contrast) bacterial resistance to existing compounds is spreading at an alarming rate. Professor Vincent Jarlier, Head of the Bacteriology Department at the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris) comments: *"We are now at a dead end regarding a number of serious infections. Developing new antibiotics is essential."*

The Deinobiotics project will explore the potential of Deinove's *Deinococcus* bacterial culture collection for the discovery, development and production of novel antibiotic and antifungal compounds (the project is focused on compounds active against multi-resistant, Gram-negative, pathogenic bacteria). *Deinococcus sp.* and other rare bacteria constitute a large, untapped source of new compounds. In general, bacteria are among the most prolific and productive sources of antibiotics in the living world and Deinove's bacteria exhibit a huge potential for the discovery of novel antibiotic structures and therapeutic compounds.

Professor Pierre Dellamonica, Head of the Infectious Disease Department at Nice University Hospital, a member of the French National Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan for Prevention of Nosocomial Infections and an expert on the Eurobiomed cluster's Strategic Council for Projects, emphasized that *"Innovation in the field of antibiotics is critical and must be encouraged because we are increasingly being obliged to prescribe second-line antibiotics. New targets must be discovered, to avoid working on existing classes - a situation which leads to marginal therapeutic innovation. The coalition formed by Deinove and its partners has returned to the fundamentals of antibiotics research - biodiversity screening - with a view to renewing our arsenal of novel compounds. This is what makes the Deinobiotics project so valuable."*

"We and our project partners are delighted to have received financial support from OSEO, the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Council, the ERDF and the FUI for a project which addresses significant unmet medical and

societal needs. Deinove had announced its progress in antibiotics at the time of our stock market listing in April and the company is continuing to deploy its business plan on schedule", commented Deinove CEO Jacques Biton.

The Deinobiotics project follows on from the first phase of Deinove's antibiotics programme (Deinopharm, which focuses on compounds active against Gram-positive pathogenic bacteria). The Deinopharm programme also received €0.4 million in financial support from OSEO Innovation and the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Council and confirmed the high potential of Deinove's bacteria for novel antibiotics production.



The European Union is investing in the Languedoc-Roussillon region through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Deinobiotics project is part-funded by the ERDF.

About antibiotics

Infectious disease remains the leading cause of death worldwide¹. Each year, nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections affect around 2 million people in the USA² and 5 million in the European Union³, with a mortality rate of 5% (i.e. around 285,000 deaths annually). The global antibacterials market is currently worth \$30 billion and is set to grow to \$45 billion by 2012⁴. There is an urgent need to develop a new arsenal therapeutic, in view of the resurgence of nosocomial Gram-negative, multi-resistant infections and the emergence of new pathogens. Rare, resistant bacteria in general and *Deinococcus sp.* in particular have been poorly studied and under-exploited to date - despite the fact that (like the rare *Actinomycetes*) they are likely to constitute one of the most productive bacterial reservoirs of novel antibiotics.

About Deinove

The greentech company Deinove is dedicated to the development and commercial exploitation of innovative technological processes for the production of biofuels and other compounds of industrial or pharmaceutical interest, by exploiting the deinococci's exceptional natural properties. Deinove intends to leverage its proprietary bacterial strains, technologies and processes by outlicensing to industrial partners. Deinove has partnered with leading sugar, ethanol and starch company TEREOS in order to develop the Deinol project, which aims at producing cellulosic ethanol in existing industrial facilities.

Deinove currently has 20 staff and operates several R&D partnerships with the CNRS (Montpellier and Marseilles), the University of Paris V, INSA Toulouse and the VTT in Finland. It was incorporated in late 2006 under the joint impetus of Philippe Pouletty MD (Managing Partner at the private equity firm Truffle Capital) and Professor Miroslav Radman (Professor of Cell Biology at Paris-Descartes University, a member of the French Academy of Science and winner of the 2003 INSERM Medical Research Prize). Professor Radman elucidated the genetic mechanism behind the extraordinary natural properties of the bacterium *Deinococcus* (biodiversity and robustness) on which Deinove's innovative strategy is based. The company's headquarters are in Paris and it operates a lab in Montpellier (Cap Alpha technopark), southern France.

For more information, visit www.deinove.com.

Partners: www.cnrs.fr and www.nosopharm.com



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¹ Global Health Statistics 2008, World Health Organization (2008)

² Klevens RM et al. Pub. Health Rep. 122: 160-166 (2007)

³ Annual epidemiological report on communicable diseases in Europe. Eds: Andrew Amato-Gauci and Andrea Ammon. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (2007)

⁴ The Global Antibacterials Market - R&D pipelines, market analysis and competitive landscape. Arrowhead Publishers (2007)