



PRESS RELEASE

## **Collectis and Caisse des Dépôts sign agreement on a project for the industrial development of iPS cells**

**Project to establish world-leading iPS cell bank for industrial usage by 2015 and create a European leader in iPS cells**

**Paris, April 5, 2011** – Collectis (Alternext: ALCLS), the genome engineering specialist, has announced today that its subsidiary Ectycell has signed an agreement with the Caisse des Dépôts (a French financial institution) for a planned capital investment of €12M, in two steps, reserved in equal parts to Collectis and Caisse des Dépôts.

This agreement should start no later than January 31, 2012, and is subject to the achievement of certain technical conditions.

Following this investment, Collectis is set to hold about 75% of the capital stock and voting rights of Ectycell, the rest being held by Caisse des Dépôts.

Created in August 2009, Ectycell is dedicated to the industrial development of induced Pluripotent Stem (iPS<sup>1</sup>) cells. Ectycell is a sublicensee of Collectis for various intellectual property usage rights, including those relating to iPS cell technology, under license from iPS Academia Japan.

*« This capital increase will speed-up the development of innovative industrial tools derived from iPS cells », said David Sourdivé, CEO of Ectycell. « The programs that have been launched should lead to the establishment of a world-leading industrial iPS cell bank in terms of volume and diversity by 2015 ».*

The agreement with Caisse des Dépôts is part of an ambitious program launched by Ectycell and dedicated to the development, industrial production and marketing of iPS cells.

*“This agreement shows that Caisse des Dépôts, as a privileged partner of the State and local government authorities, considers investment in SMEs a priority, helping to strengthen their equity and promote innovation, “ indicated Patrick François,” Interregional Director Ile de France of Caisse des Dépôts. “It is in line with the support we provide to the French regional poles of competitiveness initiative by investing in innovation platforms.”*

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<sup>1</sup> iPS: induced Pluripotent Stem cells, obtained from genetically reprogrammed adult cells  
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This program will be run with the support of Oseo, a French public structure that provides financial support for innovative French companies.

The first commercial offers will be available in the coming months. They will provide unprecedented solutions to current techniques in terms of assessment of toxicity and efficacy of new drugs and cosmetic products.

iPS cell technologies enable adult cells, from sources such as skin or hair, to be reprogrammed to behave like stem cells, which have the capacity to give rise to any cell type such as the heart or liver. Their development should help structure the health and cosmetic industrial sectors. There are numerous potential applications of iPS technologies, in both the therapeutic and industrial sectors, and they address very large markets, due to the fact that they can overcome the volume limitations of the current technologies.

This agreement with Caisse des Dépôts strengthens Collectis commitment in the stem cell domain, following on from the collaborative StemRed project, conducted in partnership with Etablissement Français du Sang (French Blood Agency), with the purpose of producing red blood cells from iPS cells as announced on March 8, 2011.

#### **About Ectycell**

A subsidiary of Collectis founded in August 2009, Ectycell is dedicated to the development, production and marketing of tools for generating induced pluripotent stem cells from adult cells for industrial and therapeutic applications.

#### **About Collectis**

Collectis improves life by applying its genome engineering expertise to a broad range of applications, including human therapeutics, bioresearch and agriculture. Collectis is listed on the NYSE-Euronext Alternext market (code: ALCLS) in Paris.

More information at [www.collectis.com](http://www.collectis.com)



#### **About Caisse des Dépôts**

Caisse des Dépôts and its affiliates form a public group that invests in the long term to serve general interest and economic development of local governments. Its mission was confirmed by the law of modernization of economy of August 4, 2008: "Caisse des Dépôts and its affiliates constitute a public group serving general interest and the economic development of the country. This group fills general interest missions supporting public politics run by the State and the local governments, and can exercise competitive activities."

#### **Disclaimer**

This press release and the information contained herein do not constitute an offer to sell or subscribe, or a solicitation of an offer to buy or subscribe, for shares in Collectis in any country. This press release contains forward-looking statements that relate to the Company's objectives based on the current expectations and assumptions of the Company's management only and involve unforeseeable risk and uncertainties that could cause the Company to fail to achieve the objectives expressed by the forward-looking statements above.

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