



GENFIT HAS ACQUIRED A TYPE 2 DIABETES AND OBESITY PROGRAM FROM MERCK SANTE

Through a strategic agreement MERCK SANTE transferred the 'MKG02' research program to GENFIT.

GENFIT expands its pipeline of proprietary compounds in type 2 diabetes.

Lille (France), Cambridge (Massachusetts, United States), March 24, 2009 – GENFIT (Alternext: ALGFT; ISIN: FR0004163111), a biopharmaceutical company at the forefront of research and development of drugs, focusing on early diagnosis and preventive treatment of cardiometabolic and neurodegenerative diseases, today announced the execution of a strategic agreement with MERCK SANTE, subsidiary of the German group MERCK KGaA, and part of the MERCK SERONO division, to acquire the research program MKG02 focused on type 2 diabetes and obesity.

This agreement is a consequence of a decision by MERCK SERONO not investing further into diabetes research & development. Today's announcement concludes an eight-year partnership between the two groups which has been focused on the prevention and treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity and has resulted in the identification and validation of multiple targets based on GENFIT's therapeutic and scientific expertise.

According to this agreement, GENFIT will continue the development of the identified and validated compounds in the field of type 2 diabetes and obesity using the results obtained by MERCK SERONO during the partnership period. In return, MERCK SERONO retains the rights to develop drug candidates outside of these therapeutic areas. The agreement provides each company with an exclusive license in the field of its specialty. Financial details of the agreement were not disclosed.

Jean-François Mouney, Chairman of the Management Board of GENFIT, announced: "This in-licensing agreement sets up a significant opportunity for GENFIT to enrich its product portfolio with compounds focused on type 2 diabetes. The recent progresses reported in the MKG02 program, based on an orphan nuclear receptor, have enabled us to identify innovative chemical structures as well as profiling and selectivity data that are very promising. We are very pleased to continue this program initiated during the partnership with MERCK SANTE, and to quickly bring the first compounds into preclinical development."

About GENFIT:

A biopharmaceutical company, GENFIT studies the regulation and function of genes implicated in many of the most widespread diseases. GENFIT's scientists identify new therapeutic targets and develop drug candidates designed specifically for such targets. GENFIT's programs, conducted in partnership with pharmaceutical companies which include SANOFI-AVENTIS, SOLVAY GROUP, PIERRE FABRE, and SERVIER, treat the most prevalent metabolic diseases. GENFIT's development of proprietary drugs focuses on early diagnosis, prevention and treatment of micro and macrovascular diseases in pre-diabetes and diabetes. GENFIT is also committed in research programmes in specific neurodegenerative diseases. GENFIT possesses a rich and diversified pipeline of drug candidates at different stages of development – development carried out by GENFIT alone or in partnership. GENFIT's lead proprietary compound, GFT505, is currently in Phase II and another compound in partnership with SANOFI-AVENTIS (AVE0897) is now completing Phase I. With facilities in Lille, France, and Cambridge, MA (USA), the company has over 130 employees on staff, including over 100 scientists. GENFIT is a public company listed on the Alternext by Euronext™ Paris (Alternext: ALGFT; ISIN: FR0004163111). www.genfit.com



COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE PRESS RELEASE



Contacts:

GENFIT

Jean-François Mouney - Chairman of the Management Board

+ 33 (0)3 2016 4000

MILESTONES – Press Relations

Bruno Arabian

+33 (0)1 75 44 87 40 / +33 (0)6 87 88 47 26 - milestones@milestones-fr.com

Items in this press release may contain forward-looking statements involving risks and uncertainties. The Company's actual results could differ substantially from those anticipated in these statements owing to various risk factors which are described in the Company's prospectus. This press release has been prepared in both French and English languages. In the event of any differences between the two texts, the French language version shall supersede.