



Press release

Roche signs agreement to acquire GlycArt Biotechnology AG, a GLSV portfolio company

Zug/Munich, 19 July 2005 – *Global Life Science Ventures (GLSV)* today announced that Roche, one of the world's leading research-focused healthcare groups in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, has signed an agreement to acquire privately held GlycArt Biotechnology AG, a portfolio company of GLSV. GlycArt, a Swiss company leveraging proprietary technology to enhance the activity of therapeutic antibodies for the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases, was founded in 2000 as a spin-off from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zürich. GLSV led the series A financing of the company in November 2003, held a supervisory board position and also played an active role in initiating the trade sale process. The transaction was managed by ABN AMRO. Roche will pay approximately CHF 235 million in cash in exchange for all outstanding capital stock of GlycArt.

Dr. Peter Reinisch, Partner at GLSV, commented: "GlycArt and Roche had already established a strong working relationship together. This move is the final step of an already successful collaboration to date. Monoclonal antibodies are a cornerstone technology of today's biotech industry and they are ideally suited as targeted therapeutics against molecules of diseased cells. GlycArt's commercially viable platform for improving the biological activity of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies as well as its portfolio of potential therapeutic drug candidates are considerable assets for any company's pipeline of novel therapeutics."

Over the past five years, GlycArt has focussed on the development and commercialization of a new generation of antibody products based on its proprietary GlycoMAB[®] technology. GlycoMAB[®] is a fully developed, broad technology platform that efficiently increases the biological activity of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies for killing specific target cells implicated in disease. It is based on an active modulation of antibody glycosylation during production leading to antibody products with increased antibody-dependent cellular toxicity. Therapeutic efficacy, industrial-scale applicability, patent protection and an extensive proof-of-principle are the distinct hallmarks of this technology.

Dr. Hans Küpper, Partner at GLSV, remarked: "The acquisition of GlycArt by Roche is a positive signal for Europe's biotechnology industry. It represents a clear win-win situation for the pharmaceutical industry on the one hand and early-stage, innovative biotech companies like GlycArt, supported by venture capital, on the other. Roche has an enviable track record in bringing successful biotechnologies under its wings. It is setting the standard for other pharmaceutical companies looking to strengthen their drug pipelines through the positive momentum of today's biotechnology industry."

Hanns-Peter Wiese, Partner at GLSV, added: "With this trade sale, GLSV has achieved another significant exit complementing recent successful public listings in the United States and Europe. Since April 2004, Memory Pharmaceuticals Corp. (USA), Cyberkinetics Neurotechnology Systems (USA) and Intercell (Austria) have gone public."



About Global Life Science Ventures:

GLSV is a leading, independent venture capital fund focusing exclusively on the life sciences. With offices in Germany and Switzerland, GLSV is dedicated to providing finance primarily to early-stage groups, originating from universities, scientific institutions or industry, as well as selected later stage companies, including buy-outs. The group currently advises and manages funds greater than €200 million. Up to now, GLSV has financed 27 leading biotechnology companies, ten of which have completed a successful exit through IPO or M&A. GLSV has built a broadly diversified portfolio of companies in pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, and biotechnology.

Global Life Science Ventures

Industry-born team – Proven track record – Global perspective

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