



## **Staphylococcus aureus vaccine development on track - safe and immunogenic in Phase I clinical trials**

**Vienna (Austria), May 18, 2007** – Intercell AG (VSE, “ICLL”) has been informed by its strategic partner Merck & Co., Inc. on the results of a Phase I study involving in total over 120 adult healthy volunteers comparing safety and immunogenicity of different doses of the *Staphylococcus aureus* vaccine.

The *Staphylococcus aureus* vaccine is based on a conserved protein antigen discovered by Intercell’s Antigen Identification Program (AIP®) and was licensed to Merck & Co., Inc. on an exclusive world wide basis in 2003.

The data show that the vaccine is safe and generally well tolerated. Immune responses were observed within several weeks following vaccination and these immune responses persisted throughout the course of the study.

“We are very pleased that the vaccine candidate, for which the antigen was identified by our proprietary AIP® technology, delivered promising clinical data, and look forward to its further clinical development”, states Gerd Zettlmeissl, CEO of Intercell. “These data underline the high potential of our AIP® technology for the identification of other bacterial vaccine product candidates in-house or in collaboration with leading vaccine companies”.

### **About *Staphylococcus aureus* and nosocomial infections**

Hospital-acquired infections are one of the major causes of death and serious illness worldwide, resulting in an annual burden of more than USD 20 billion in the developed world. In the United States alone, about two million patients become infected annually while receiving health care in hospitals. The incidence of nosocomial infections is steadily increasing due to medical interventions and most notably due to the emergence of antibiotic resistant bacteria circulating in hospitals. *Staphylococcus aureus* is the most frequent cause of hospital acquired infections. In addition to bloodstream infections with a mortality rate of up to 35%, infections of bone, heart and other inner organs are leading to serious health complications, death and economic burden. Today, approximately 50% of *Staphylococcus aureus* strains isolated in hospitals worldwide are resistant to multiple antibiotics, rendering staphylococcal disease management increasingly difficult and challenging.

### **About Intercell AG:**

Intercell AG is a growing biotechnology company which focuses on the design and development of novel vaccines for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases with substantial unmet medical need. The Company develops antigens and adjuvants which are derived from its proprietary technology platforms, and has in-house GMP manufacturing capability. Based on these technologies, Intercell has strategic partnerships with a number of global pharmaceutical



companies, including Novartis, Merck & Co., Inc., Wyeth, sanofi pasteur, Kirin and the Statens Serum Institut.

The Company's leading product, a prophylactic vaccine against Japanese Encephalitis, successfully concluded pivotal Phase III clinical trials in 2006. The regulatory process towards a Biologics License Application (BLA) to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been initiated. The broad development pipeline includes a Pseudomonas vaccine in Phase II, a therapeutic vaccine for Hepatitis C in Phase II, partnered vaccines for Tuberculosis and Staphylococcus aureus which are in Phase I, and five products focused on infectious diseases in preclinical development. Intercell is listed on the Vienna stock exchange under the symbol "ICLL".

For more information please visit: [www.intercell.com](http://www.intercell.com)

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