



Paris, France, Jan 06, 2006

## Press Release

---

### **GenOdyssee S.A. Announces that it Received Notice of Allowance for its First US Patent Application N° 10/113,824 Covering a Natural Erythropoietin (EPO) Mutant that is Useful as a Therapeutic Molecule, and Its Therapeutic Applications**

---

*Paris, France, January 06, 2006* - GenOdyssee S.A., a biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery of 'next generation' protein products for already-developed blockbuster markets, using an original population genetics-based drug discovery approach, announced today that it has received notice of allowance from USPTO of its **US Patent Application N° 10/113,824 Covering a Natural Erythropoietin (EPO) Mutant with improved activity, compared to first generation human wild-type EPO.**

"We are very pleased by this. This is an important milestone for us. This EPO product patent in the market where EPO was first invented and developed, is a proof-of-concept by itself of the innovation that brings GenOdyssee to the Industry. In fact, the international search report established by the European Patent Office in 2003 and the notice of allowance report from the USPTO state the absence of prior art in the US and in Europe with natural EPO mutants. These reports quote some prior art documents that relate to EPO mutants. However, all of them are different from ours, none of them are natural, and except hyper-glycosylated EPO analogs discovered and protected by Amgen, none of those mutants are therapeutically active. So it appears clearly from these reports that our EPO product is unique in the industry and also that GenOdyssee's technology is the first technology, since Amgen's wild-type EPO, to provide an EPO molecule, which is a naturally occurring product, therapeutically useful, and patentable in the US and in Europe" said Jean-Louis Escary, CEO of GenOdyssee .

He added. "In addition, soon we will also announce additional granting of international patent applications covering our first 2 lead products, which are naturally-improved mutants of human interferon alpha discovered using the same technology".



## About GenOdyssee S.A. ([www.genodyssee.com](http://www.genodyssee.com))

GenOdyssee has an IP-protected product source that is unique in the industry. GenOdyssee pioneered the vision that natural evolution may have led to the generation in the current population of unpredictable mutations that confer superior or novel therapeutic status to known human therapeutic proteins.

GenOdyssee's technology is protected by the international patent application PCT/EP03/13965 and is the sole property of the company. Such technology appears to be unique in the industry as demonstrated by a positive international examination report delivered by the European Patent Office in 2005 that stated the absence of prior art in the whole industry with such technology. The international patent is pending in Europe, US, and Canada.

The technology is applicable to a very broad range of cytokine proteins of potential use in human therapy across many disease areas and may provide a wealth of next-generation protein therapeutics.

Using such technology, GenOdyssee has discovered 2 lead products for applications in hepatitis C, vaccine therapies, and cancer:

- The first product, GEA007.1, is a natural variant of human interferon-alpha 17 which has the potential to be a 'next generation' interferon for the treatment of HCV infection. It may be positioned as 1st-line therapy with equivalent activity but lower toxicity than current IFN's, and/or positioned for use in non-responders or relapsing patients infected with HCV genotype's 1 & 3.

- The second product, GEA009.2, is a naturally-dissociated human interferon alpha 21 which has the potential to be a 'first in class' adjuvant to vaccines but also to be positioned as 1st-line therapy with higher efficacy and better tolerability compared to current IFN alpha 2 treatments in cancer. This molecule in fact elicits a novel cell signalling activity profile in human immune cells and provides a profile characterized by powerful immunomodulating properties dissociated from weak antiproliferative and antiviral activity.

Lastly, it has demonstrated improved tolerability in rhesus monkeys, compared to IFN alpha 2 therapies.

Both products are protected by respectively, the international patent application PCT/EP02/052229 and PCT/EP02/04082 for which the company received positive international examination reports on novelty and inventiveness.

Status: pending approval in Europe (Q1 2006); procedures for accelerated examination ongoing in the US; pending in all other major countries (Japan, Israel, India, China, Australia, Canada, Singapore, South Korea, etc).



GenOdyssee's unique technology has also permitted the company to discover a natural variant of human erythropoietin, named GOEPO, with improved efficacy compared to epoietin alpha. GOEPO is protected by the international patent application PCT/EP02/04331 for which a notice of allowance in the United States has been written by USPTO in Dec 2005 (granting expected in Q1 2006).