



Paris, France, March 31, 2006

Press Release

Genodyssee S.A. is pleased to Announce that it Received Notice of Allowance in the EU for its Patent Applications N° EP 1 390 543 and EP 1 379 695, covering Lead Human Interferon (IFN) Alpha Products GEA007.1 and GEA009.2, Respectively Natural Mutants of Human IFN Alpha 17 and 21, and their broad therapeutic applications

Paris, France, March 31, 2006 - GenOdyssee S.A., a biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery of 'next generation' protein therapeutic products, announced today that it has received notice of allowance from the European Patent Office of its **Patent Applications N° EP 1 390 543 and EP 1 379 695**. These two patents cover natural mutants of human IFN alpha 17 and 21 among which are GenOdyssee's two lead IFN alpha products, GEA007.1 and GEA009.2 for application respectively as hepatitis C and immunotherapy treatments.

"This is a confirmation of international protection of our lead IFN alpha products GEA007.1 and GEA009.2. These products show significant improvements of pharmacological properties compared with current interferon treatments for respectively, hepatitis C and a broad range of immunotherapy treatments. After the recent granting in the US of our Patent Application covering a natural Erythropoietin (EPO) mutant with improved activity, compared to first generation human wild-type EPO (see press release of Jan 06, 2006), this demonstrates the potential of our technology for the discovery of multiple next generation protein therapeutic products with improved pharmacological properties as compared to the reference "wild-type" proteins on the market. This also allows us to expand the scope of protection of our process patent application to a large diversity of blockbuster markets and disease areas. For our EPO mutant (GO-EPO), the international search and the notice of allowance reports established by the European Patent Office and the USPTO did not reveal any prior art references relevant to the invention represented by GO-EPO. The same observations were made here by the European Patent Office for our two lead IFN alpha products GEA007.1 and GEA009.2. This confirms that our technology is unique in the industry and that GenOdyssee has secured a strong and leading IP position for the discovery of natural mutants of human protein therapeutics with improved pharmacological profiles and therapeutic utility" said Jean-Louis Escary, CEO of GenOdyssee.

About the products

GenOdyssee S.A., 4 rue Pierre Fontaine,
91058 Evry Cedex, France
S.A. au Capital de 54.903,54 Euros
RCS Evry B 424 796 548 - TVA FR 67 424 796 548



- GEA007.1, is a natural variant of human interferon-alpha 17 which has the potential to be a 'next generation' more efficacious interferon for the treatment of HCV infection, particularly for use in non-responders or relapsing patients infected with HCV genotype's 1 & 3 which are difficult to treat with current interferon drugs.
- GEA009.2, is a human interferon alpha 21 variant which has the potential to be a 'first in class' immunotherapy drug, particularly for use in adjuvant to vaccines therapies. Extensive testing also has shown that it may provide potent antineoplastic activity itself in treatment of various immunogenic cancers as 1st-line therapy with higher efficacy and better tolerability compared to current IFN alpha 2 treatments due to the fact that it elicits a novel cell signalling activity in human immune cells and a dissociated and safer activity profile in vivo.

Competitive advantages: GenOdyssee's products are natural human proteins generated by natural evolution. They are therefore already proven to be functional and tolerated in man, presenting a comparatively low development risk profile, compared to most pre clinical entities.

About GenOdyssee S.A.

GenOdyssee uses a population genetics-based drug discovery approach using a DNA databank representative of the human population, which is screened for natural genetic variants of therapeutic proteins with superior properties. The company 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. An international examination report delivered by the European Patent Office stated an absence of prior art to such technology in the whole industry.

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 IFN alpha products for applications in hepatitis C, vaccine therapies, and cancer. In a separate development, GenOdyssee's technology also allowed the company to discover a natural human erythropoietin (EPO) mutant with improved activity, named GOEPO, with improved efficacy compared to first generation human wild-type EPO.

GenOdyssee has assembled a fully integrated functional genomics platform and proceeded to extensive screening of the genomes of 278 individuals counting altogether for 85% of the ethnic diversity of the human population. These genomes were screened for naturally occurring functionally relevant protein mutants in 115 genes coding for cytokines, growth factors, receptors and tyrosine kinases. Inventive functionally



relevant protein mutants were identified using a stringent screening procedure based on sophisticated bio-informatics including functional annotations, molecular modeling calculations, and prediction of the mutation's impact on host protein structure. In particular, significant changes in the 3-dimensional structure and in electrostatic isopotentials at or near the receptor binding surface, eg of lead interferon alpha and EPO variants, were identified. Expression and GLP production of selected protein variants were performed within the company, followed by extensive evaluation of their pharmacological properties by independent scientific & clinical expert academic laboratories. Direct comparison was made between GenOdyssee's therapeutics and the reference "wild-type" proteins on the market in models of human infectious diseases and cancer diseases.

For more information about the company, please visit the company's website at www.genodyssee.com