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Korea's GenKOre inks $300 M deal with US to develop in vivo gene-editing therapies

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The collaboration was built on the mutual interest in forging transformative therapeutics for patients with rare diseases



GenKOre, Inc., a Korea-based biotech company with hypercompact CRISPR-Cas tools, has entered into a strategic research collaboration with a US-based biopharma company for the development of *in vivo* gene editing therapies.

This collaboration will utilise GenKOre's proprietary CRISPR Cas platform, TaRGET (Tiny nuclease, augment RNA-based Genome Editing Technology). The TaRGET platform is distinct from the most popular genome editing technology, CRISPR-Cas9, in that the whole editing module can be delivered with a single AAV vector.

Based on their TaRGET platform, GenKOre has developed different modalities of editing tools including TaRGET-CUT, TaRGET-Adenine Base Editing (ABE), TaRGET-AI (Gene Activation and Inhibition system) and TaRGET-FREE (Gene knock-in).

"This collaboration reflects the strength and potential utility of TaRGET platform in the application of *in vivo* gene-editing therapy", said Yong-Sam Kim, CEO of GenKOre. "Not only will this collaboration provide an opportunity to validate the applicability of TaRGET platform to *in vivo* therapy, but we will also expand the utility of our technologies to a wider spectrum of rare diseases."

Under the terms of the agreement, GenKOre will receive up to $300 million including an upfront, option exercise fees and milestone payments upon successful achievement of R&D and commercial milestones across two *in vivo* disease targets. In addition, GenKOre will receive research funding and tiered royalties up to a double-digit percentage of net sales.