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Hanmi, Cell>Point enters manufacturing deal

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Singapore: US-based commercialization-stage biopharmaceutical company, Cell>Point has entered into a license agreement with Korea-based Hanmi Pharmaceutical to manufacture, market and distribute Cell>Point's cancer and cardiology imaging product based on its ethylenedicysteine-glucosamine (EC-G) technology platform.

The initial product will be technetium-99m labeled EC-G (99mTc-EC-G) for SPECT and SPECT/CT imaging. Downstream, the license agreement will cover gallium-68 labeled EC-G (68Ga-EC-G) for PET/CT imaging. In addition, Hanmi has been granted a Right of First Refusal regarding Cell>Point's cold metallic therapeutic products Platinum-EC-G and 187Rhenium-EC-G, and two imaging products, 99mTc-EC-Annexin V to image tumor cell apoptosis, and 99mTc-EC-Metronidazole to image tumor cell hypoxia.

"We are pleased to associate with such an outstanding pharmaceutical company whose vision is to bring imaging technology to South Korea that has the potential to make high quality cancer imaging more affordable and accessible at a time when the cost of healthcare is becoming a national priority, as it is in many other countries around the world," said Mr Greg Colip, CEO, Cell>Point.

Imaging product 99mTc-EC-G, which was invented at the University of Texas and acquired by Cell>Point, is a target-specific molecular imaging radiopharmaceutical that has moved into a phase III lung cancer imaging trial and phase II cardiology imaging trial.

The product can be injected intravenously and then imaged using a Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) camera (sometimes referred to as a gamma camera) or a combination SPECT/Computed Tomography (SPECT/CT) camera system. The current standard of care in cancer molecular imaging is fluorine-18 FluoroDeoxyGlucose (18F-FDG) imaged using a combination Positron Emission Tomography /Computed Tomography (PET/CT) camera system.