

## Harbour BioMed & Otsuka Pharma ink \$670 M agreement for treatment of autoimmune diseases

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A potential future partnership between the two companies in the T-cell engager area



Harbour BioMed, a China-based biopharmaceutical company, has announced a global strategic collaboration with Japanheadquartered Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. to advance BCMAxCD3 bispecific T-cell engagers for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.

Under the terms of the agreement, Otsuka is granted an exclusive license to develop, manufacture, and commercialise HBM7020, a BCMAxCD3 bispecific T-cell engager globally, excluding Greater China (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan).

In return, Harbour BioMed will receive a total of \$47 million in upfront and near-term payments. The company is also eligible for additional payments of up to \$623 million upon the achievement of specified development and commercial milestones, as well as tiered royalties on future net sales.

This strategic collaboration establishes a foundation for potential future partnerships between the two companies in the T-cell engager area.

Dr Jingsong Wang, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Harbour BioMed said, "This collaboration underscores the strength of Harbour BioMed's proprietary Harbour Mice<sup>®</sup> and HBICE<sup>®</sup> technology platforms, which enable the rapid development of fully human bispecific antibodies with optimised safety and efficacy profiles. By leveraging our unique capabilities, we are well-positioned to advance next-generation biotherapeutics that can make a meaningful difference in patients' lives worldwide."

Makoto Inoue, President and Representative Director of Otsuka Pharmaceutical, noted, "Otsuka is expanding our development pipeline in the autoimmune disease field by leveraging the antibody drug platform of our subsidiary Visterra, and the small molecule drug discovery platform of our subsidiary Jnana. HBM7020 is expected to demonstrate efficacy in a broad range of autoimmune diseases in which B cells play a major role in disease pathogenesis, and we hope to contribute further to the field of specialized autoimmune diseases and thereby benefit patients."