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Chinese and Dutch firm to jointly develop antibodies

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ShangPharma and Harbour Antibodies Announce Licensing Agreement

Singapore: ShangPharma, a leading China-based pharmaceutical and biotechnology R&D outsourcing company, and Harbour Antibodies, a Dutch biotechnology company, entered into a collaborative licensing agreement under which ShangPharma will develop therapeutic antibody candidates for its customers using Harbour's transgenic mouse-based fully human antibody development technology.

Harbour will provide ShangPharma with human immunoglobulin-gene transgenic mice for use at the company's Shanghai facility, where researchers will provide fully human antibody development services to ShangPharma's pharmaceutical clients. The Harbour transgenic mice licensed under the agreement produce H2L2 IgG antibodies, comprising two heavy chains and two light chains, with fully human variable regions.

"We are delighted to be working together with Harbour to introduce this pioneering antibody technology in China for the first time," said Mr Michael Xin Hui, founder and CEO of ShangPharma. "We are proud that Harbour sees the value of our services and has chosen to draw upon the strength of ShangPharma's biologics R&D capabilities."

Dr Chengbin Wu, VP of biologics at ShangPharma, added, "This partnership with Harbour is a major step forward both for ShangPharma and also for the development of therapeutic antibodies in China. We are excited to combine Harbour's industry-leading technology with the strength of our research teams to develop medicines that have the potential to improve the quality of treatment for patients."

Prof Frank Grosveld, co-founder and director of Harbour, said, "The use of transgenic mice draws upon the natural immune response and has proved to be a very reliable route to discovering potential human antibody-based medicines. There is a need for new transgenic mouse platforms to meet the continuing clinical need for therapeutic antibody discovery. The Harbour transgenic mouse platform meets this need."