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ASIA EDITION

Lonza licenses NeuroPortalâ?¢ blood-brain barrier technology to CMS for neurodegenerative therapies

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CMS secures exclusive global rights for up to two products in the platformâ??s first licensing deal, with Lonza eligible for upfront payment, milestones and royalties.



- Lonza and China Medical System Holdings Limited (CMS) announced a global exclusive license agreement for the use of Lonza's NeuroPortal™ transferrin receptor 1 (TfR1) blood-brain barrier (BBB) technology in up to two products targeting neurodegenerative diseases. CMS is a pharmaceutical company, with headquarters in Hong Kong, focused on developing and commercializing specialty medicines, including treatments for central nervous system disorders.

The blood-brain barrier protects the brain, preventing many medicines from reaching this organ. This poses a major challenge for central nervous system (CNS) drug development. NeuroPortal™ TfR1 technology offers binding variants with different affinities, enabling developers to evaluate the balance between receptor engagement, transport across the barrier and brain exposure for their therapeutic molecule. The technology outperformed a leading industry benchmark in preclinical studies both when used as an IgG fusion and when combined with Lonza's GlycoConnect® platform. Together with Lonza's expertise in protein expression, bioconjugation and developability, the platform offers customers a flexible approach to evaluating CNS delivery strategies.

CMS secured exclusive rights to the technology for the agreed product targets. In return, Lonza will receive an upfront payment, development and commercial milestones and royalties on net sales based on the agreement. Lonza will continue to offer licensing rights to NeuroPortal™ TfR1 technology for other therapeutic programs.

Peter Droc, Head of Licensing, Lonza, commented: "NeuroPortal™ TfR1 technology is designed to help optimize delivery of therapeutics to the brain, and gives developers flexibility to explore genetic fusion or bioconjugation approaches, tailoring the delivery strategy to the needs of their therapeutic molecule. Delivering therapeutic molecules that can cross the blood-brain barrier remains a critical challenge in the development of treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. In selecting this platform, CMS is marking an important step in the commercial development of this technology."

Detailed results from Lonza's NeuroPortal™ TfR1 platform will be presented at the 18th annual Protein & Antibody Engineering Summit (PEGS) in Lisbon, Portugal, from 16–19 November, highlighting the platform's potential to support tailored delivery of therapeutic molecules across the BBB. To learn more about the platform, visit Blood-Brain Barrier.