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CUTTING EDGE BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANY RECEIVES INVESTMENT FROM SYNDICATE

Investment to accelerate Oxford Genome Sciences personalized therapy programs

Personalized therapies - tailoring drug treatments to one's biological profile - is one the most attractive fields in the drug industry today. Oxford Genome Sciences - OGeS (UK) Ltd of Abingdon, has secured another round of private equity investment to enable it to support its goal of becoming a leading company in the field of personalized therapies for cancer and Alzheimer's disease. This investment came from a syndicate of investors including the South East Growth Fund, Oxford Capital Partners and the newly launched £30m Catapult Growth Fund, which was making its first investment from the fund.

Oxford Genome Sciences is poised to become a leader in the rapidly emerging field of personalized medicines by developing new therapeutics with companion diagnostics for the better management of diseases such as cancer (an example of a personalized medicine is the multi-billion breast cancer drug Herceptin). The company's unique technology (based on the world's largest proprietary collection of disease related proteins) enables it to identify new disease relevant markers that act as the starting points to develop antibody drugs and specific diagnostic tests for a particular disease. Over the last 12 months, OGeS has entered into strategic partnerships with world leading companies in the fields of antibodies therapies and diagnostics . By integrating diagnostics and therapeutics, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies can take significant

amounts of time, money and risk out of the drug development process, thus making it more cost effective to bring drugs to the market.

Dr. Christian Rohiff, CEO of Oxford Genome Sciences (UK) commented:

“I am very pleased to have completed this new round of fundraising which I see as a strong endorsement of the progress made to date, the strength of our team and our unique ability to integrate diagnostics and therapeutics. We are glad to welcome the additional expertise, which the Catapult team bring us with their strong track record in venture capital management, alongside the already excellent support provided by South East Growth Fund (SEGF) and Oxford Capital Partners (OCP). The additional funds provide us with financing visibility for the next three years and put us in a very strong position to further advance our therapeutic and diagnostic programs in the fields of cancer and Alzheimer’s disease.”

Jason Gould, Fund Principal of the South East Growth Fund commented: “This is a very exciting business led by a highly capable and well respected CEO. The remarkable research and development being undertaken by this company could have far reaching effects on both the medical profession and patients.

Historically drugs have been very costly to develop and market. To make them affordable, the pharmaceutical industry has focused on the identification of blockbuster drugs for the masses. Personalised medicines, which have a significant impact on a small proportion of the population, have until recently been uneconomic to develop. However, we expect OGeS’s technology to bring an increased focus to the development of personalized medicines while at the same time making them more affordable. This in turn has the potential to save numerous lives as well as the health service vast sums of money!”

David Mott, Investment Director at Oxford Capital Partners added that “Oxford Genome Sciences is a very exciting investment opportunity because it has the potential to address all the market and strategic issues being faced by pharmaceutical companies focused on cancer, where drug sales are projected to reach \$55 billion in 2009, compared to the \$24 billion in 2004 and surpassing cholesterol-reducing drugs. It is therefore highly a attractive development partner to the big pharmaceutical companies and represents a long term strategic opportunity for them as well.”

Commenting on the new Catapult Growth Fund, Rupert Lyle said: “We have the remit to invest in growth orientated SMEs with a requirement for up to £2m of development capital, or finance to facilitate a change of ownership (i.e. an MBO or an MBI).

“There are many excellent companies, such as OGeS, needing funding to enable them to develop their businesses to the next stage of development and I believe the Catapult Growth Fund fills a huge gap at the £1m to £2m equity investment level.”