



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MolMed and Takara Bio Entered into an Agreement for the Development of an innovative HIV/AIDS Stem Cell Gene Therapy Drug and for a License of the HIV/AIDS Gene Therapy-Related Technologies**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005** — MolMed S.p.A. (President: Claudio Bordignon) enters into a worldwide Research Collaboration and License Agreement to jointly develop HIV/AIDS gene therapy with Takara Bio Inc. (President: Ikunoshin Kato), a Japanese biotech company, and out-licenses know-how and technologies developed by MolMed as well as sublicenses of relevant technologies of certain third parties.

The HIV/AIDS gene therapy to be developed within the collaborative development project uses a gene transfer vector which inserts two new therapeutic genes developed by MolMed into haematopoietic stem cells of HIV/AIDS patients, thereby preventing reproduction and proliferation of HIV/AIDS viruses.

Under this Agreement, MolMed and Takara Bio will jointly develop the AIDS gene therapy on an equal cost-share basis. MolMed's marketing rights of the gene therapy developed are exclusive in Europe and co-exclusive with Takara in North America. In Asia, Takara Bio acquires exclusive license of the technology developed in the course of the collaborative research and related know-how of MolMed, as well as the sublicenses of the technology-related patents developed by third parties.

According to a report published by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), at the end of year 2003 there were 1'580'000 people affected by HIV/AIDS in Europe and North America, and 840,000 in China: the report estimates that the number of patients increases by 30% annually, and is projected to exceed 10 million by 2010.

In 2003, MolMed granted exclusive license agreements to Takara Bio on gene therapy technologies for the treatment of haematological malignancies and solid tumors in Asia. Through this new Research Collaboration and License Agreement, both companies aim to further strengthen their collaboration in the field of gene therapy.

#### **About MolMed**

MolMed S.p.A. is an integrated biotech company focused on the development of innovative therapies for the treatment of cancer and AIDS. The company is based in Milan (Italy) within the premier Italian biomedical research institute, the San Raffaele Biomedical Science Park.



MolMed has currently four promising products targeting cancer and AIDS in its development pipeline, two of which are about to complete phase I/II clinical trials, while the third one is in phase I. MolMed's therapies encompass groundbreaking treatments such as stem cell gene therapy, therapeutic vaccines and vascular targeting. These therapies are highly specific and therefore improve quality of life by considerably reducing toxicity.

MolMed's products are protected by a strong intellectual property of over 50 patent families, which the company either owns or holds exclusive or non-exclusive rights on.

**About Takara Bio Inc.**

Takara Bio Inc. is a well-established Japanese biotechnology company based in Shiga, Japan, committed to preventing disease and improving the quality of life of people around the world through the use of biotechnology. The company is listed at the MOTHERS market in Tokyo. The main focus of its business is genomics and biotechnology research reagent and equipment, gene and cell-based diagnostics and therapies, and agricultural biotechnology. With a proven record in the history of biotechnology, Takara Bio is a leading company in creating innovative technologies. Through strategic alliances with other industry leaders, the Company aims to become a leader in creating innovative technologies and plans to extend its reach around the world.

**For further information:**

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