



PAION starts clinical development programme for neuroprotectant Enecadin

Aachen, 15 June 2005 – PAION, a biopharmaceutical company focusing on developing drugs for the indications stroke and other thrombotic diseases today reported the beginning of clinical interaction and safety studies for its stroke drug Enecadin. The studies with healthy persons aim at testing interaction with other drugs as well as at dose scheme optimisation. The data gained from the studies will serve for preparation of the Phase II study that is planned to start within the second half of 2005.

Enecadin is a neuroprotectant for the treatment of the damage that nerve cells suffer due to insufficient blood supply in acute ischaemic stroke, i.e. brain infarction caused by a blood clot obstructing a brain's artery. PAION licensed the drug from Japanese manufacturer Nippon Shinyaku Co., Ltd. in 2004 and plans to develop it both for mono therapy as well as in combination with Desmoteplase, PAION's clot busting stroke drug which is currently in Phase III.

"This marks the beginning of the preparations for Phase II and is an important step to turn our vision of an integrated stroke portfolio into reality", comments PAION's CMO Dr. Mariola Söhnngen, who is responsible for clinical development.

About Enecadin and Stroke

Enecadin is a sodium and calcium channel blocker that helps nerve cells to survive ischaemia and prevents the brain cells from swelling. This was demonstrated in pre-clinical studies. Compared with other neuroprotective agents in clinical development, Enecadin has the advantage that it penetrates into the infarcted region of the brain at sufficient doses and possesses a long half-life. Before in-licensed by PAION, Enecadin was already administered to stroke patients within the scope of a safety study.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the industrialised world behind cancer and heart disease. At the same time it is a leading cause of severe long-term disabilities. In the U.S. alone, 700,000 people suffer a stroke each year.

About PAION

PAION, a biopharmaceutical company based in Aachen, Germany, aims to become a leader in developing and commercialising innovative drugs for the treatment of stroke and other thrombotic diseases for which there is a substantial unmet medical need. PAION intends to build an integrated portfolio of drugs by exploiting its core expertise in identifying compounds with potential in the treatment of stroke and other thrombotic diseases, licensing or otherwise acquiring these compounds and advancing them through the clinical development and regulatory approval process. Currently, PAION's activities are focused on the development of the three drugs Desmoteplase, Enecadin, and Solulin. PAION's most advanced drug candidate, Desmoteplase, has received fast-track designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the indication acute ischemic stroke. During the first quarter 2005, PAION employed on average 56 people. Since 11 February 2005, PAION is listed at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (Prime Standard Official Market, Stock Symbol PA8, ISIN DE000A0B65S3). More information is available at www.paion.de.

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