A Research-and-Development Project of GenomIdea Inc., a Subsidiary of AnGes MG, Inc. is Granted Subsidy from New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization - Development of Cancer Therapeutic Agent Using HVJ-E Vector -

The New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) invited applications for research plans to be covered by the public financial aid program for commercialization of innovative technology (R&D Type Venture Technology Development Subsidy Program) in fiscal 2007, aimed for stimulation of continuous creation of innovative technologies. The research proposed by AnGes MG's subsidiary GenomIdea on HVJ-envelope vector (HVJ-E vector) to be used in developing immunotherapy agents for cancer was recently adopted by NEDO under this program.

Cancer (malignant neoplasm) is the leading cause of death in Japan. Annually 325,000 Japanese die of cancer (Population Statistics for 2005, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare). The global number of deaths from cancer is reported to be 7.6 million (WHO, 2005). To date, no satisfactorily effective method of treatment has been developed for highly malignant cancers. This is a field in which the need for development of new therapeutic agents is high. The development of immunotherapy agents for cancer has been attracting particularly close attention since the development of such a kind of agent is expected to lead to creating new treatment technology other than conventional chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormone therapy and surgical resection.

At present GenomIdea is developing HVJ-E vector as a new drug delivery system for frontier biopharmaceutical agents. Animal studies, conducted to date, demonstrated that HVJ-E vector activates the immune system (resistance) against cancer through unique mechanisms, exerting high therapeutic efficacy. The project on the development of this system was thus adopted as a research theme to be covered by the NEDO program.

Following NEDO's decision to adopt this project, in principle, GenomIdea will

receive subsidies equivalent to two-thirds of the research and development costs for anti-cancer agents until the end of 2008. In 2007, an annual subsidy of JPY 78.5 million is planned for this project. In this way, GenomIdea can receive financial support from the public organization NEDO in collecting preclinical data related to its development project of new anti-cancer agents making use of HVJ-E vector.

GenomIdea plans to proceed collecting preclinical data required for clinical development of new anti-cancer agents making use of HVJ-E vector under this financial support from NEDO and leveling up its stage of pipeline related to this development project.

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- Company Profile -

GenomIdea Inc. Head office: 7-7-15 Saito-Asagi Ibaraki-shi, Osaka President: Takuma Nakatsuka Established: July 2002 Capital: 348 million yen (June 2007) Number of employees: 20 (December 2006) Sales: 161 million yen (term ending December 2006) Scope of business: Research and development of new vector technologies Major shareholder (equity ratio): AnGes MG, Inc. (71.1%)