

Evolva successfully completes US biodefense program Promising novel antibiotic to be presented at ASM

Reinach, Switzerland, 29 February 2012 - Evolva Holding SA (SIX: EVE) today announced that its project with the US Army Research Office (ARO), conducted as part of the Transformational Medical Technology Initiative's mission to prevent and address biowarfare threats, has been completed successfully.

In particular EV-035, one of the compounds studied under the ARO program, has been found to be a promising novel antibiotic with good activity in preclinical models against a range of select agents and other bacterial pathogens.

During 2012 data on EV-035 will be presented at various scientific congresses, commencing with the 2012 ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting, taking place 26 – 29 February in Washington, DC, USA.

Evolva has been working with ARO since 2008 and the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) since September 2006. Evolva's work for ARO focused on finding molecules that inhibit the growth of the Gram-negative bacterial pathogen *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.

Neil Goldsmith, CEO of Evolva commented, "It has been a great experience working with DTRA and ARO. We are proud of our contribution to the efforts to build up the defenses and responses against potential biological threats."

EV-035 is a bacterial type II topoisomerase inhibitor, belonging to the chemical class of 2-pyridones. EV-035 shows potent broad-spectrum activity, including pathogens such as: *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, *Burkholderia mallei*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Bacillus anthracis*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Coxiella burnetii* and *Brucella abortus*. Superior activity over reference antibiotics was observed *in vitro* and in mammalian intracellular infection models.

Moreover, EV-035 retains activity on multidrug-resistant strains including pathogens resistant to quinolones and other topoisomerase inhibitors.

Early *in vivo* work indicates an efficacy comparable or better than gold standard drugs against both Gram+ and Gram- strains, including *E. coli* and MRSA as well as other multidrug-resistant pathogens.

The compound has good oral bio-availability and exhibits a favorable safety profile. Data generated to date indicate that EV-035 is an excellent candidate for further characterization and promotion as broad-spectrum bio-defense agent. Apart from the potential defense use, Evolva owns all rights to EV-035 and has patent applications covering this portfolio.

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About Evolva Holding SA

Evolva's mission is to discover and provide innovative, sustainable ingredients for health, nutrition and wellness. Evolva uses biosynthetic and evolutionary technologies to create and optimise small molecule compounds and their production routes. Our approach differs from that of the mainstream in the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

We are active in pharma (infectious disease and complications of diabetes) as well as in consumer healthcare and nutrition (food ingredients, personal care and crop protection). In both areas we have partnered projects as well as proprietary programmes. For more information see www.evolva.com.

About the Defense Threat Reduction Agency

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) was founded in 1998 to integrate and focus the capabilities of the Department of Defense (DoD) that address the threat by weapons of mass destruction (WMD). DTRA's mission is to safeguard the United States and its allies from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive WMDs by providing capabilities to reduce, eliminate, and counter the threat and mitigate its effects. DTRA combines DoD resources, expertise, and capabilities to ensure the United States remains ready and able to address present and future WMD threats. For more information on DTRA, visit www.dtra.mil.

About Transformational Medical Technologies (TMT)

TMT was created by the DoD to protect the Warfighter from emerging and genetically engineered biological threats by discovering and developing a wide range of medical countermeasures through enhanced medical research, development, and test and evaluation programs. The TMT Program Office is matrixed from the Joint Science and Technology Office-DTRA and Joint Program Executive Office-Chemical and Biological Defense with oversight from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. For more information on TMT, visit www.tmti-cbdefense.org.

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