



Crescendo Biologics' Mouse Knockout Patent Upheld

Cambridge, UK. 4th April 2011 – Crescendo Biologics Limited (Crescendo) today announced that the Opposition Division of the European Patent Office has upheld all key claims of one of its core patents (EP 1399559; inventors: Brüggemann et al.), covering mice in which the endogenous mouse lambda light chain locus is functionally deleted and their generation..

EP 1399559 was originally granted on 30th April 2008 to the Babraham Institute and was subsequently assigned to Crescendo. The claims as upheld by the Opposition Division protect a mouse in which the endogenous mouse lambda light chain locus is functionally silenced through partial or complete deletion, regardless of the method by which the knockout is made. The patent also comprises claims to a targeting construct, a method for producing the knockout mouse and the use of the mouse in producing antibodies.

Crescendo has already made use of its ability to knock out lambda light chain to generate proprietary 'triple knockout' mice that have the immunoglobulin heavy chain (IgH), kappa light chain and lambda light chain loci all functionally deleted. This is a significant advance over previous knockout mice which retain intact lambda light chain. While lambda light chain accounts for at most 10% of the light chains in mouse antibodies, Crescendo believes that knockout of all light chain expression will be beneficial to many antibody transgenic mouse platforms.

Dr Mike Romanos CEO of Crescendo said: "The European Patent Office decision further strengthens Crescendo's position in the human antibody space and reinforces the value of our intellectual property portfolio. The lambda light chain knockout enables the generation of mice completely devoid of endogenous antibody polypeptides and hence has application across the spectrum of transgenic mouse platforms for antibody generation. We intend to enter into appropriate licensing agreements with third parties who have a non-competing interest in this area."

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About Crescendo Biologics Ltd

Crescendo Biologics will apply highly innovative antibody fragment technologies to the development of new targeted therapeutics. The Crescendo transgenic mouse platform under development has the potential to rapidly and predictably generate high-affinity human heavy chain antibodies that readily yield V_H fragments that have no requirement for humanisation. This is combined with a powerful *in vitro* ribosome display technology which offers significant



advantages over existing approaches in antibody optimisation. V_H fragments provide great flexibility as a starting point for the development of new targeted therapeutics combining the specificity and binding affinity of antibodies with certain desirable characteristics of small molecules.

Crescendo's technologies were invented by scientists at the Babraham Institute, Cambridge (UK). The Company has raised £4.5 million in seed funding from leading life sciences investors, Sofinnova Partners with Aitua, Avlar BioVentures and the Rainbow Seed Fund also participating. www.crescendobiologics.com