Press Release



Sanofi and Lyon start-up NH TherAGulX team up to produce AGulX®, an innovative nanoparticle in oncology.

Paris (France) – February, 18, 2019 – AGuIX® is an innovative nanoparticle resulting from a discovery by NH TherAGuIX, a French start-up based in Lyon and created in 2015 by two researchers Géraldine Le Duc and Olivier Tillement.

This radiosensitizing drug is under clinical development in the treatment of solid tumors by radiotherapy, with an upcoming entry in Phase 2 on the indication of brain metastases.

Through this agreement, NH TherAGuIX will benefit from all the experience and industrial know-how of Sanofi in the field of production of active pharmaceutical ingredients. Production of clinical and commercial batches will be carried out at the Aramon site in France (certified by the US-FDA, European-EMA and Japanese-PMDA health agencies). The first clinical batches are expected in September 2019.

Through this agreement, Sanofi will act as a processor for NH TherAGuIX, from the industrialization of the manufacturing process to the production of clinical and commercial batches. The production of nanoparticles requires specific skills that have been acquired by Sanofi employees at the Aramon site and which today make it possible to develop this state-of-the-art expertise in France.

"It is a great source of pride for Sanofi Active Ingredient Solutions to be able, through this strategic partnership, not only to contribute to a breakthrough innovation that could lead to a better life for millions of people in the field of oncology, but also to support a brilliant French start-up in its emergence and growth," declared Philippe Clavel, Director of Sanofi Active Ingredient Solutions.

"We are proud and excited about this partnership with Sanofi, which will enable larger scale batch production for clinical trials and, hopefully, the production of commercial batches. This is a major step forward in the development of the company, at the crucial moment as we enter Phase 2," said Géraldine Le Duc, CEO of NH TherAguix.

About AGuIX®

AGuIX® is a bimodal nanomedicine, with a radiosensitizing effect and visible in MRI. AGuIX® demonstrated good post-injection safety, MRI contrast enhancement and early evidence of radiosensitization when combined with radiation therapy in patients with brain metastases (NANORAD1 Phase 1b trial, Grenoble CHU). A Phase 2 trial has recently been approved by ANSM (NANORAD2, CHU Grenoble). In parallel, a Phase 1b trial for advanced cancer of the cervix (NANOCOL1) is underway at Gustave Roussy in Paris.

About SANOFI Active Ingredient Solutions

SANOFI Active Ingredient Solutions (SAIS) is a global organization dedicated to active pharmaceutical ingredient sales to third-party customers. At SAIS, we work every day with passion to develop, manufacture and supply more than 150 active pharmaceutical ingredients. We collaborate with innovative companies through our Contract Development and Manufacturing activity to provide technological solutions and be the industrial partner to our customers.

About Sanofi

Sanofi is dedicated to supporting people through their health challenges. We are a global biopharmaceutical company focused on human health. We prevent illness with vaccines, provide innovative treatments to fight pain and ease suffering. We stand by the few who suffer from rare diseases and the millions with long-term chronic conditions.

With more than 100,000 people in 100 countries, Sanofi is transforming scientific innovation into healthcare solutions around the globe.

Sanofi, Empowering Life

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