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Actinium Pharmaceuticals and Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Announce Collaboration to Support Development of a Novel Cancer Treatment

Alexandria, VA—January 29, 2003—Actinium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (API) announced today the collaboration of its wholly owned subsidiary MedActinium, Inc. (MAI) with Battelle, which operates the Department of Energy's (DOE) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Richland, Washington. MAI and Battelle signed both a license agreement and a cooperative research agreement in the field of alpha particle immunotherapy.

Alpha particle immunotherapy (APIT) combines the potent cell-killing power of alpha-particle-emitting radioactive isotopes (bismuth-213 or actinium-225) with monoclonal antibodies that target specific cancer cells. Once injected into the body, the radioactive drugs travel through the bloodstream until they lock onto or move into the cells. Because the high-energy alpha particles have a radiation range of only five cell diameters, they do not significantly damage healthy surrounding tissue. This results in very low side effects, making APIT one of the most targeted and effective cancer treatments in development.

"We are pleased to be transferring technology to the private sector where it can be used to effectively treat cancer," said Dr. Darrell Fisher, a senior scientist at PNNL. "Our goal has been to provide a more effective radiation for metastatic cancer while sparing normal tissues in the body. This can only be achieved with alpha-particle emitting agents that specifically target single cancer cells."

Scientists at PNNL developed two key technologies for APIT. Battelle has licensed both technologies to MedActinium.

The first technology involves a linker-chelate which binds actinium-225 to monoclonal antibodies for targeted delivery of radiation to cancer cells. In preclinical studies conducted at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in 2001, only a few atoms of actinium-225 were required to effectively kill malignant cells. These cancers included leukemia, breast, ovarian, lymphoma, neuroblastoma and prostate. Cancer specialists will use actinium-225 for the first time in clinical trials at MSKCC in New York.

The second important technology relates to a generator process that provides reliable on-site production of bismuth 213 from the actinium-225 sources. Direct production of bismuth-213 in the hospital is necessary because of its short radioactive half-life. Thirty patients with acute myeloid leukemia have been treated at MSKCC, at increasing doses, using bismuth-213. API is encouraged by data demonstrating the selective killing of cancer cells in the blood and marrow without significant side effects.

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The licensing of these products and technologies developed at PNNL will assist MedActinium in advancing the development of APIT, bringing the therapy closer to full-scale clinical use and commercialization. "Actinium Pharmaceuticals is the only commercial company developing cancer therapeutics with these short half-life alpha-particle-emitting radioisotopes," said Dr. Maurits Geerlings, API's CEO. "Actinium-225 and bismuth-213 are superior cytotoxic agents relative to all other types of radiation and chemical toxins. Our belief in these cancer-treating agents is reinforced by ten years of experience in supporting the development and testing of these radioisotopes."

The announcement today concerns an exclusive license from Battelle to MedActinium for its relevant alpha particle immunotherapy patents. A separate cooperative agreement for further research and development grants MedActinium a license to any new inventions developed by Battelle under the Collaborative Research and Development Agreement.

Actinium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a company engaged in the development and commercialization of alpha particle immunotherapeutics with facilities located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Alexandria, Virginia.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (<http://www.pnl.gov>) is a Department of Energy multiprogram research facility located in Richland, Washington.

For more information, call Dr. Maurits Geerlings, API's CEO, at 703.299.9755.

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