

Strategic partnering deal with Cytocentrics

Cyprotex PLC (AIM:CRX), a specialist ADME-Tox and Bioscience Contract Research Organisation, today announces the signing of a strategic partnering deal with world leading ion channel specialists, Cytocentrics, Inc, to extend Cyprotex's capabilities in the *in vitro* ion channel screening market. As part of the agreement, Cytocentrics will provide equipment, cell lines, expertise and training to allow Cyprotex to provide a panel of different ion channel assays from its Watertown site, near Boston in the USA.

A consortium in the USA known as CiPA (Comprehensive in Vitro Proarrhythmia Assay) is currently evaluating a new paradigm for regulatory cardiac safety testing using *in silico* and *in vitro* methods. CiPA is co-sponsored by the Cardiac Safety Research Consortium (CSRC), the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The *in vitro* methods currently being evaluated include single ion channels measurements, and integrated ion channel measurements in human stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes. Cyprotex is an active member of CiPA and plays a vital role in the development and validation of the human stem-cell derived cardiomyocyte assays using microelectrode array. This is an area in which Cyprotex has considerable expertise being the first company to launch this technology onto the market as a higher throughput platform via its eCiphr[®] Cardio service. The Cytocentrics agreement will complement existing technology already provided by Cyprotex by allowing Cyprotex to offer a panel of single ion channel measurements. This will enable Cyprotex to offer a fully comprehensive package of *in vitro* cardiac safety services which focus on key testing methods currently being addressed within the CiPA initiative.

The introduction of the new ion channel services will not only allow Cyprotex to offer cardiac safety testing but will also allow screening for potential biological effects on ion channels and so will extend Cyprotex's bioscience capabilities. The new facility, anticipated to be operational in H1 2016, is expected to contribute to the Company's performance from H2 2016 in line with current market expectations. The new services will utilise Cytocentrics CytoPatch[™]4 instruments and stably transfected cell lines. The CytoPatch[™]4 is an automated patch clamp system which uses a quartz glass pipette analogous to manual patch clamp and allows robust gigaseal recordings.

Anthony Baxter PhD, Chief Executive Officer of Cyprotex, comments on the agreement, 'Regulatory cardiac safety testing for new pharmaceuticals is expected to change in the near future with a greater focus on *in vitro* and *in silico* methods. Cyprotex is well placed to address this trend and will have the capability to offer a comprehensive package of *in vitro* cardiac services through its existing offerings and through our new partnership with Cytocentrics.'

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