



Cytocentrics CEO: San Antonio to get big boost from new deal

A Manchester-based firm, Cyprotex Plc, has reached out to one of San Antonio's newest biotech companies, striking a deal with Cytocentrics that could have a far-reaching impact on the Alamo City. Under the new agreement, Cyprotex (AIM:CRX), an international bioscience contract research organization, will tap into Cytocentrics capabilities in the in vitro ion channel screening market. The Alamo City company, which relocated here from Rostock, Germany, in 2015, will provide Cyprotex with equipment, cell lines, expertise and training.

Cyprotex officials said Cytocentrics' team is recognized globally as ion channel specialists and the collaborative agreement will allow the company to provide a panel of different ion channel assays from its US site near Boston.

"Our team has been doing work for Cyprotex for some time and it was an evolution of that relationship," said Cytocentrics CEO [James Garvin](#) when asked what led to the deal with the British company.

A US consortium called CiPA, or Comprehensive in Vitro Proarrhythmia Assay, is currently evaluating a new paradigm for regulatory cardiac safety testing using in silico and in vitro methods. The in vitro methods currently being evaluated include the measurements of single ion channels and integrated ion channel measurements in human stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes.

Cyprotex is an active member of CiPA, which is co-sponsored by the Cardiac Safety Research Consortium, the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute and the US Food and Drug Administration.

Cytocentrics' deal with Cyprotex could have a profound impact on the San Antonio company and on the Alamo City's growing bioscience industry.

"It means a great deal," said Garvin about the collaborative agreement. "Cyprotex is one of the most well-regarded and highly respected names in the (industry). We anticipate a great deal of business coming through them, as well as additional business coming to us as a result of this new relationship."

Garvin said he expects that Cyprotex also will gain additional business as a result of its work with Cytocentrics. 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, extending the company's bioscience capabilities.

The bigger payoff for San Antonio may be greater global exposure for its bioscience industry. "People will take notice of this deal and take notice that we are in San Antonio," Garvin said. "That only helps the city's profile, and we love for San Antonio to be noticed."

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2016/02/10/cytocentrics-ceo-san-antonio-to-get-big-boost-from.html>

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