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Starpharma dendrimer technology gets 3 US patents

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Starpharma dendrimer technologies gets patent protection until 2019



Singapore: Australia's Starpharma has been granted three new patents by the US Patent and Trademark Office (US PTO). The patents provide "composition of matter" protection for Starpharma's dendrimer technologies for drug delivery until 2029 in the US.

The patents offer broad and long-standing protection, and are in addition to other patent filings that encompass the company's leading delivery candidate, which is a dendrimer-enhanced version of the anti-cancer drug docetaxel (Taxotere). Dr Jackie Fairley, CEO, Starpharma, said that the granting of these patents coincides with growing interest in nanomedicine by pharmaceutical companies, and a strong deal-making environment. "In 2013 alone we have seen Pfizer, Amgen and Astellas Pharma each sign deals in the nanomedicine space with the aim of progressing pre-clinical drug candidates to market," he said.

Dendrimer formulations of existing drugs offer the ability to create proprietary products which have advantages such as improved drug efficacy, reduced toxicity, improved solubility, extended drug half-life and targeting of pharmaceuticals to specific cells or tissues. The patents are not limited by disease area or route of delivery, and apply to dendrimer applications involving many classes of drugs such as small molecules, proteins, peptides and antibodies.

China's patent office has also informed the company that it has allowed a similarly broad, drug delivery-related patent for Starpharma in this important Asian market. This fourth patent , will expire in 2027, will be granted once an administrative process is complete.

Dr Jackie Fairley, CEO, Starpharma, said that, "The granting of these patents adds to Starpharma's considerable dendrimer intellectual property portfolio and expands the Company's patents on drug delivery-related applications. They provide a firm footing for the commercialisation of our drug delivery technology, via our internal programs and work with partners including some of the largest global pharmaceutical companies."