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Chinese startup Phrontline Biopharma joins hands with Samsung Bioepis to co-develop ADC assets

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Collaboration will add a new class of bispecific and dual-payload ADC therapeutics to Samsung Bioepis' oncology portfolio



South Korea-based Samsung Bioepis Co., Ltd. and Chinese startup Phrontline Biopharma, a clinical-stage biotechnology company advancing a new generation of Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADCs), have entered into a global collaboration agreement to develop, manufacture and commercialise two ADC assets: TJ108, bispecific and dual-payload ADC, and another asset to be named.

In addition, Samsung Bioepis will receive an exclusive license from Phrontline for one topoisomerase-1 inhibitor (TOP1i) payload which is applied to Samsung Bioepis' ADC pipeline.

Phrontline's TJ108 is TOP1i and tubulin inhibitor-based ADC directed against Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) and Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 3 (HER3), targets that are overexpressed in a variety of cancers, which contribute to aggressive growth and metastasis.

Under the terms of the agreement, Phrontline will receive an upfront payment and will be eligible to receive additional milestone payments tied to development and regulatory achievements.

Samsung Bioepis is expanding its pipeline beyond biosimilars to fulfill its mission of broadening patient access to treatments in the areas of unmet therapeutic needs. The development of ADCs could add into the company's broad spectrum of therapeutic portfolio that covers immunology, oncology, ophthalmology, hematology, nephrology, neurology, and endocrinology.