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ASIA EDITION

DSM Pharma, DecImmune sign antibody deal

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Singapore: Australia's DSM Pharmaceutical, the custom manufacturing and technology business of Royal DSM, has signed an agreement with venture capital funded DecImmune Therapeutics of Cambridge, Massachusetts, US. The agreement covers the initiation of development activities by DSM for DecImmune's lead monoclonal antibody program. The initial development will be performed at DSM Biologics' Groningen facility, with the objective of progressing manufacture of clinical trial material to DSM's facility in Brisbane, Australia.

DecImmune's proprietary antibody therapeutic is designed to reduce tissue damage and improve ventricular function associated with myocardial infarction. Regaining full function after a heart attack can be complicated by irreversible tissue damage and scar formation that leads to a significant loss in cardiac pumping efficiency. In a range of experimental models, DecImmune has shown that it is possible to reduce damage to heart tissue by using their proprietary therapeutic antibody. In these models the reduction in damage to heart tissue results in pumping efficiency returning to normal levels. DecImmune is also investigating this targeted approach to reduce tissue damage for a range of other acute and chronic post-injury settings.

"Partnering with DSM for its antibody process development and manufacturing enables DecImmune to move rapidly through late preclinical studies and into clinical development. DSM's experience, capacity, and technical expertise in Groningen and Brisbane meet the full range of DecImmune's manufacturing needs. We look forward to working with one of the world's leading science-based companies as our manufacturing partner," stated Dr Christopher K Mirabelli, president and CEO of DecImmune and MD at HealthCare Ventures, DecImmune's lead investor.

"In line with DSM's stated strategy, and fulfillment of its commitment to bring manufacturing and technological excellence to the global biopharmaceutical market, this agreement with DecImmune represents the best of what DSM is doing to help our customers serve critical needs in healthcare. The combination of the Groningen and Brisbane operations will support DecImmune throughout the development process and on to clinical trials." declared Mr Alexander Wessels, president and CEO of DSM Pharmaceutical Products.

Mr David Hughes, CEO of BioPharmaceuticals Australia (BPA), said, "We have always been of the view that success for this facility would come from leveraging both local and global demand. BPA's ongoing partnership with DSM brings a wealth of expertise to the region. Brisbane is home to sophisticated biomanufacturing technology and this contract with DecImmune

bolsters the city as an internationally-recognized location for biotherapeutic development."