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Takara Bio enters deal with Invivoscribe

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Takara Bio licenses to Invivoscribe to use methods for detection of FLT3 mutations in Japan



Singapore: Japanese firm Takara Bio has entered into an agreement with Invivoscribe Technologies to grant the latter licenses to facilitate and conduct patent-covered tests for the presence of internal tandem duplication (ITD) mutations in the FLT3 gene.

FLT3 ITD mutations constitute an important known marker for refractory acute myeloid leukemia (AML). These mutations are detected in approximately one third of AML patients, and correlate with poor prognoses.

Clinical developments of drugs effective for patients having the FLT3 or ITD mutation are actively conducted over the world. By testing for the presence of FLT3 or ITD mutations, patients who are qualified for administration of FLT3-targeted drugs can be identified, resulting in more accurate and clinically effective treatment.

Takara Bio granted an exclusive worldwide (excluding Japan) license to Invivoscribe Technologies in July 2006 to use the patent covering detection method of FLT3 or ITD mutation. Under the agreement, Invivoscribe Technologies obtained Japanese licenses to produce and sell in vitro diagnostic (IVD) products for FLT3 or ITD detection exclusively, to provide testing services for FLT3 or ITD detection non-exclusively, and to produce and sell research reagent products for FLT3 or ITD detection co-exclusively with Takara Bio.

Invivoscribe Technologies is offering research reagent products and testing services for FLT3or ITD detection mainly in the US and Europe, and these products and services will be available in Japan under the Japanese licenses. Takara Bio also expects that development of the IVD product, including companion diagnostics, will be promoted by unifying the Japan and the rest of the world licenses.