

Sun Pharma, Samsung Biologics ink deal for psoriasis drug

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India's drug giant Sun Pharma has inked a long term manufacturing agreement with Korea's Samsung Biologics for Tildrakizumab, Sun Pharma's new drug for treatment of moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis. The agreement was entered into by Sun Pharma's wholly-owned subsidiary and Samsung BioLogics. According to the agreement, Sun Pharma has appointed Samsung BioLogics to manufacture Tildrakizumab, an investigational IL-23p19 inhibitor being evaluated for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

The value of the contract is \$55.5 million, Sun Pharma said in a stock exchange filing. The agreement was signed at Samsung BioLogics' headquarter in Incheon, South Korea. Filings for this novel investigational biologic has been accepted for review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (May 2017) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) (March 2017).

Dr. TH Kim, President and CEO of Samsung BioLogics commented on the development saying, "Samsung BioLogics is pleased to join hands with Sun Pharma and is looking forward to delivering best-in-class manufacturing services with global quality standards. Our collaboration with Sun Pharma is an important milestone for Samsung as it is a testament of our ability to provide reliable supply through its GMP-certified manufacturing facility to pharmaceutical companies, which aim to expand their global market."

Mr Kirti Ganorkar, Global Head -- Portfolio Management & Business Development, Sun Pharma said, "Samsung BioLogics is a globally renowned CMO. Through this partnership we will leverage Samsung's manufacturing knowledge and world class quality systems to provide high quality products for the Tildrakizumab pipeline."

Sun Pharma's wholly-owned subsidiary had received worldwide rights for tildrakizumab from Merck's subsidiary known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, in 2014. Funded by a Sun Pharma subsidiary, Merck was responsible for the completion of Phase-3 or late trials in patients with mild-to-moderate plaque psoriasis.