

Japanese firm Kyowa Kirin to acquire UK-based startup Orchard Therapeutics for \$477 M

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Acquisition enriches Kyowa Kirin's portfolio, enables the development of numerous promising candidates



Kyowa Kirin, a Japan-based global specialty pharmaceutical company and UK-based startup Orchard Therapeutics plc, a global gene therapy leader, have announced the companies have entered into a definitive agreement under which Kyowa Kirin will acquire Orchard Therapeutics for \$16.00 per American Depositary Share (ADS) in cash (approximately \$387.4 million, or ¥57.3 billion), under which Orchard shareholders will hold an additional contingent value right (CVR) of \$1.00 per ADS. An additional \$1.00 CVR will be paid for a total of \$17.00 per ADS, or approximately \$477.6 million (¥70.7 billion) if the conditions are met.

The gene therapy approach pioneered by Orchard Therapeutics harnesses the unique power of a patient's own genetically modified hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) to potentially correct the underlying cause of a genetic disease using a single administration.

Upon closing, the acquisition would provide Kyowa Kirin with a global leadership position in the burgeoning field of genetic medicine, including a portfolio spanning commercial, clinical, and pre-clinical HSC gene therapies designed to address serious diseases where the burden is immense for patients, families and society and current treatment options are limited or do not exist.

Orchard Therapeutics' portfolio comprises Libmeldy (atidarsagene autotemcel), also known as OTL-200, intended for eligible patients with early-onset metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD), a rare and life-threatening inherited disease of the body's metabolic system. Libmeldy is approved by the European Commission (EC) and UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for the treatment of "late infantile" and "early juvenile" MLD patients. It is currently an investigational drug under Priority Review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with a Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) goal date of March 18, 2024.