

Vectalys and OSEO, the future funding branch of BPI (Banque Publique d'Investissement), announce the launch of a collaborative project called MAGenTA, which will benefit from 10 million euros devoted to the support of strategic industrial innovation (ISI) projects.

The aim of this public-private partnership project involves the establishment of experimental models and clinical trials dedicated to urogenital diseases with a total budget of 22.5 million euros.

MAGenTA is an industrial research project formed to accelerate the selection and validation of new and effective treatments for major urogenital diseases. This innovative translational research program will pool technical and human resources allocated to the development and characterization of novel and predictive experimental models of urogenital diseases, which will enable validation of the effectiveness of a new generation of therapeutic molecules. After initial validation, the overall approach will be extended to other tissue and pathological models. The project also includes the development of innovative gene transfer tools as well as the development of functional exploration platforms.

The five year project will be managed and coordinated by Vectalys and includes four SMEs (UROsphere, Ixaltis, Genticel and Vectalys) and two academic institutions (L'Institut de la Clinique de la Souris and l'Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse) belonging to two clusters (Alsace BioValley and Cancer-Bio-Santé in Toulouse).

In 2012 MAGenTA successfully completed the instruction phases of the innovative projects assistance program (ISI), with final approval by OSEO in January 2013. The project will benefit from public funding totaling 10.7 million Euros. These grants and reimbursable loans will be divided between the academic institutions and the partner SMEs financed under the project. The estimated overall budget of MAGenTA, including private investments, is 22.5 million Euros and will ultimately create 80 jobs within the partner companies over the next 10 years.

"MAGenTA is a unique opportunity to share innovative technologies among private and academic partners to provide relevant experimental models and to validate the effectiveness of future drugs developed for urogenital diseases," said Pascale Bouillé, CEO of Vectalys. "We are proud of the establishment of this collaborative program, which will strengthen the competitiveness of all partners in the international arena. We thank OSEO for their financial support and their support provided throughout the year 2012. "

Claude Pinault, Project Director of OSEO's Strategic Industrial Innovation, said: "The ISI program aims to fund collaborative projects with promising technological breakthroughs and designed to create or strengthen new European or world leaders. We believe in the MAGenTA project, which is why we have

decided to support the project with the necessary means required to establish itself as a therapeutic revolution.”

Project Coordinator:

Vectalys (Toulouse - 31)

Founded in 2005 by Dr. Pascale Bouillé, Vectalys is a biotechnology company that develops, manufactures and markets gene transfer tools for the development of cellular and animal models for the validation of candidate genes and drug screening. The company brings to MAGenTA expertise in producing highly concentrated and purified viral vectors and the knowledge required for the development of experimental cellular models and genetically modified animals.

More information at www.vectalys.com

Project partners :

UROsphere (Toulouse - 31)

Founded in 2004 by Dr. Philippe Lluel and Dr. Stefano Palea, UROsphere specializes in research of treatments for renal and genitourinary disorders. UROsphere offers the pharmaceutical industry a platform of innovative research in experimental urology utilizing both *in vitro* and *in vivo* techniques for the validation of drug candidates.

More information at www.urosphere.com

Ixaltis (Toulouse - 31)

Founded in 2012, Ixaltis is a research company specializing in the clinical development of drugs for the treatment of genito-urinary and kidney diseases.

Genticel (Toulouse - 31)

Genticel is a biopharmaceutical company developing vaccines for patients infected with human papillomavirus (HPV). The strategic objective of the company is to ensure that a vaccine solution can be offered to all women infected with HPV to prevent the development of cervical cancer. Currently, several vaccine candidates are being developed to achieve this goal.

More information at www.genticel.com

L’Institut de la Clinique de la Souris (Strasbourg - 67)

L’Institut de la Clinique de la Souris (iCS) is an infrastructure specialized in translational research and functional genomics. The iCS was founded in 2002 by Dr. Pierre Chambon and headed by Dr. Yann Herault since 2010. The services provided range from the generation of mouse models to the high output or customized phenotypic analysis, thereby offering more than 250 standardized tests to highlight anatomical, physiological and behavioral phenotypes. These services are available for the entire academic and industrial research community.

More information at www.ics-mci.fr

L'Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse (Toulouse - 31)

The ENVT is a research and higher education institution associated with public scientific and technological institutions (EPST). This veterinary hospital (CHUV) comprises eight research units (mixed units and clinical research units) and is involved in several regional, national and European collaborations.

More information at www.envt.fr

About the OSEO « Innovation Stratégique Industrielle » program

The ISI program promotes the emergence of European leaders in industry. It supports ambitious projects of collaborative innovation driven by innovative medium-sized companies (less than 5000 employees) and PMEs (less than 250 employees). The aim of these projects is to commercialize breakthrough technological products that could not otherwise be achieved without public funding. The total support is generally between 3 to 10 million Euros in the form of grants and reimbursable loans.

More information at www.oseo.fr

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