

ACTIVAERO AND GROUP OF RESEARCHERS RECEIVE GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INHALED ANTI-VIRAL THERAPY

Gemünden/Germany, Dec. 19, 2006 – German based aerosol specialist Activaero GmbH today announced that the further development of inhaled Aspirin to treat virus infections will be supported by a grant of the German Federation of Industrial Research Associations (AIF).

The medical need for an innovative therapy of influenza is well-known, since influenza viruses develop resistances against the currently available drugs and vaccines. Further, each virus generation needs an own “matching” vaccine. The concept of inhaling aspirin, however, follows a different approach, since it does not attack the virus itself but interrupts the cellular signalling cascade. Therefore, this mechanism works against different influenza virus sub types.

In 2005, Activaero acquired the world-wide rights to the patents for inhaled drugs for the treatment of virus infections from a German team of researchers.

Activaero will cooperate with two Universities in this challenging project, which runs under the “Pro Inno II” program of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. For the upcoming work, the team will receive a total grant of 173,000 EUR. Main goals are to develop an inhaled form of aspirin and an appropriate inhalation device.

“We are very happy about the interest Activaero shows in our work as well as the grant by the AIF. This indicates the high level of recognition our scientific results have generated. We will now use the data for an alternative approach to fight the flu”, stated Prof. Dr. S. Ludwig and Prof. Dr. S. Pleschka.

Dr. Gerhard Scheuch, CEO Activaero GmbH said: “We are looking forward to a further close cooperation with this excellent group of researchers and we are expecting to enter a proof of concept study in the next year. ”Activaero’s AKITA® technology for controlled inhalation of aerosols will be used in the first studies, as it has proven in multiple respiratory trials to provide the most efficient and reliable dose to the human lungs. Dr. Scheuch continues: “Besides commercial product development, business development for this project continues to be one of our key focus activities. We believe that the external evaluation and support by AIF gives a strong positive signal to potential licensing partners.”

About ASS inhalation

German researchers Stephan Ludwig (Muenster) Stephan Pleschka (Giessen) and Oliver Planz, (Tuebingen) focused their research on influenza virus induced cellular signalling and found that especially IKK and NF- B are required for efficient influenza virus reproduction. Their work showed that Aspirin can inhibit these important replication mechanisms, while being not toxic and influenza viruses show no tendency to develop resistant virus variants.

About Activaero

Activaero GmbH is a German based drug delivery company, specializing in highly efficient aerosol technology and inhalation systems. Activaero partners globally with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to apply its inhalation platforms to pharmaceuticals that require critical dosage control. Activaero is privately held and has facilities in Munich (R&D) and Gemuenden/Wohra (Headquarters & Logistics).