EOS starts Phase I in cancer patients

First-in-man study initiated for the novel drug candidate with best-in-class features

September 27, 2010, Milan, Italy. EOS S.p.A. (Ethical Oncology Science) announced today the initiation of the first-in-man trial of E-3810, its oral Dual Selective VEGF/FGF protein kinase inhibitor. Patients with advanced solid tumours not amenable to standard therapy will be recruited to this Phase I open-label, dose-escalation trial evaluating the safety profile of E-3810 in order to determine its maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and dose limiting toxicities. The trial will also assess the pharmacokinetics profile and investigate multiple mechanism-related pharmacodynamic markers, including results of blood tests and imaging, to correlate exposure and pharmacological activity in humans.

E-3810 is a novel small molecule with potent and selective inhibitory activity of the Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) receptors 1-3 and of the Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF) receptors 1-2. Thus, E-3810 prevents the development of the new blood vessels essential for tumor growth (a process known as angiogenesis). Moreover, because of its anti-FGF effect, E-3810 may also override an important escape mechanism to anti VEGF treatment and directly interfere with tumour growth in certain FGF-dependent malignancies. E-3810 has shown strong antiangiogenic properties and substantial antitumour efficacy in relevant preclinical models, including superiority to standards and activity in some resistant settings. Its unique selectivity profile and significant activity, together with the favorable PK/ADMET and encouraging safety results observed in preclinical studies, indicate that E-3810 could represent a breakthrough in anticancer treatment.

This European Phase I study, which is ongoing at the Gustave Roussy Institute in Paris, Principal Investigator Prof. Jean-Charles Soria, is planned to be expanded to other major European oncology institutions such as the European Institute of Oncology in Milan. The first patient was treated on July 30th; dosing will be escalated in subsequent cohorts up to the MTD. The dose-limiting toxicities, together with the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic data, will guide the definition of the recommended dose. This latter will be explored in an enlarged cohort of patients to better characterize the safety and pharmacokinetics profile of E-3810 as well as to investigate its biological and clinical activity in tumours potentially sensitive to VEGF\FGF inhibition.

Gabriella Camboni, MD, Founder and Chief Operating Officer of EOS said: “We are proud of bringing to Phase I this unique molecule. Its selectivity profile and the attractive preclinical features seen in a wide array of experimental conditions, including outstanding activity in combination, make us very hopeful for significant benefit in patients. There is a clear and clinically feasible route to human proof-of-concept and we continue in our endeavors to make it happen”.

Silvano Spinelli, Founder, Chief Executive and Chairman of EOS, said. “We are confident that the achievement of this goal will boost the partnering and licensing opportunities for EOS in the field of preclinical and early clinical development of targeted agents”.
About E-3810: Dual VEGF/FGF Inhibitor – a potential best-in-class drug

E-3810 is a novel small molecule with potent and selective inhibitory activity of the Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) receptors 1-3 and of the Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF) receptors 1-2. Due to its mechanism of action it prevents the development of the new blood vessels essential for tumor growth (a process known as angiogenesis) and may override an important escape mechanism to anti VEGF treatment. Moreover, it could directly interfere with tumour growth in certain FGF-dependent malignancies.

E-3810 has shown strong antiangiogenic properties as well as better antitumor activity than currently marketed VEGF inhibitors in a large number of preclinical models after oral administration, including resistant settings. Preliminary evidence for potential targeting of tumors with aberrant FGF signaling has been observed in relevant models. The preclinical safety profile of E-3810 is overall similar to the one described for other antiangiogenic molecules and is consistent with pharmacologic perturbation of physiologic, cellular and angiogenic processes resulting from the interaction with the intended molecular targets. The good oral bioavailability and the pharmacokinetics properties support oral treatment in humans with once daily dosing.

Due to its unique selectivity, the significant activity observed in vivo and the encouraging preclinical safety features, E-3810 could represent a breakthrough in anticancer treatment. E-3810 has been in-licensed from Advenchen (Los Angeles, CA) and EOS has world-wide rights for oncology indications, outside China.

About EOS S.p.A.

EOS S.p.A. (Ethical Oncology Science) is an emerging biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Milan, Italy, developing novel targeted medicines to treat cancer. EOS was founded by a team of bio-entrepreneurs with decades of experience in translational medicine in oncology, high credibility with the financial community and significant track record in funding and growing biotech companies. EOS has a nimble internal structure, retaining only the strategic skills and activities in-house, while relying on strategic collaborations and outsourcing for accessing the most suitable options on a timely, flexible and cost-effective manner. EOS has assembled an initial, well integrated portfolio of molecularly targeted agents and is committed to applying translational medicine principles to the pre-clinical and initial clinical development of its drug candidates. EOS aim is to provide best-in-class anticancer agents with robust clinical proof-of-concept for licensing to commercial partners.

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