

Richter-Helm Biologics and INOVIO will expand existing DNA manufacturing agreement to support large-scale manufacturing of Inovio's investigational DNA vaccine for COVID-19

Budapest, Hungary - 30 April 2020 – Richter-Helm Biologics, Gedeon Richter Plc. (“Richter”) and Helm AG’s joint venture microbial biotechnology contract development and cGMP manufacturing organization, today announced it has entered into an agreement with US based INOVIO (NASDAQ: INO) to expand its manufacturing partnership in order to support large-scale manufacturing of INOVIO’s investigational DNA vaccine for COVID-19, INO-4800, which is currently in Phase 1 clinical testing in the U.S. and could potentially advance to Phase 2/3 efficacy trials this summer.

INOVIO has been working with Richter-Helm BioLogics since 2014. INOVIO has established commercial-scale plasmid production at Richter-Helm BioLogics for its DNA medicines platform using the manufacturing technology developed by VGXI, Inc with successful technology transfer already demonstrated in previous projects.

INOVIO has assembled a global coalition of collaborators, partners and funders to rapidly advance INO-4800.

“This agreement continues to strengthen Richter-Helm Biologics’ position as an experienced and reliable contract development and manufacturing organization in microbially produced biologics. The agreement is also an example of Richter’s continued commitment to strengthen the Group’s capabilities in the field of biopharmaceuticals”, said Dr Erik Bogsch, Deputy Director of Biotechnology Business Unit, Head of R&D and Manufacturing.

About INOVIO

INOVIO is a Pennsylvania based biotechnology company focused on rapidly bringing to market precisely designed DNA medicines to potentially treat, cure, and protect people from diseases associated with HPV, cancer, and infectious diseases. INOVIO is the first and only company to have clinically demonstrated that a DNA medicine can be delivered directly into cells in the body via a proprietary smart device to produce a robust and tolerable immune response. For more information, visit www.inovio.com.

About Richter

Gedeon Richter Plc. (www.richter.hu), headquartered in Budapest/Hungary, is a major pharmaceutical company in Central Eastern Europe, with an expanding direct presence in Western Europe, in China and in Latin America. Having reached a market capitalization of EUR 3.6 billion (USD 4.1 billion) by the end of 2019, Richter's consolidated sales were approximately EUR 1.6 billion (USD 1.7 billion) during the same year. The product portfolio of Richter covers many important therapeutic areas, including Women's Healthcare, Central Nervous System and Cardiovascular areas. Having the largest R&D unit in Central Eastern Europe, Richter's original research activity focuses on CNS disorders. With its widely acknowledged steroid chemistry expertise, Richter is a significant player in the Women's Healthcare field worldwide. Richter is also active in biosimilar product development.

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