



BioSystems International Announces Collaboration Agreement with AstraZeneca

Evry, France – February 23, 2006 – BioSystems International announces the signature of a collaboration agreement with AstraZeneca for a Biomarker Discovery Program in Osteoarthritis

BioSystems International ("BSI") discovers and, validates biomarkers through partnerships with pharmaceutical, biotechnology and diagnostics companies and in-house research programs or academic collaborations. BSI merges pharmaceutical and diagnostics industry experience with leading scientific and technology expertise in immunology, proteomics, genomics, separation science, micro/nanoscale analysis and bioinformatics.

As a part of this program, BSI will conduct biomarker discovery using its proprietary technology platform and AstraZeneca will provide clinical samples and funding. According to the agreement, BSI will retain rights to and income from diagnostic applications, and AstraZeneca receives a non exclusive licence to use these results for its internal R&D activities including exclusive rights to any new targets. BioSystems International will provide AstraZeneca with detection kits or reagents for use in their internal R&D programs.

AstraZeneca will also have a worldwide licence to cite or recommend the use of the diagnostic products, developed by BioSystems and based upon the results of the collaboration, in any promotional or regulatory material or the product label for a therapeutic compound, as may be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or any similar foreign agency.

According to Laszlo Takacs, President & CEO of BioSystems International: *"BSI is excited to deliver on the project; together with AstraZeneca's Discovery Medicine Team, we aim to expedite the development of important new therapies for a chronic disease."* BSI's objective is to establish a new standard in the research and discovery of biomarkers suitable for clinical development of drugs and the development of diagnostic tests. The technology platform and expertise of the BioSystems International team permits the identification of disease or pathology-specific biomarkers within a short time frame, compatible with the constraints of drug development. Biomarkers, which make it possible to diagnose a disease, follow its progression or evaluate drug efficacy are crucial for the pharmaceutical industry. They are expected to result in a significant reduction in the cost and duration of clinical trials and improve the clinical follow-up of patients.

According to Claude Bertrand, Vice President Respiratory & Inflammation at AstraZeneca: *"We believe that BSI's technology and results will provide AstraZeneca with significant competitive advantages in development, registration and marketing of our new osteoarthritis therapeutics"*

A few weeks ago, BSI already announced another collaboration agreement with Euroscreen for a biomarker discovery program in an inflammatory disease.

About BioSystems International:

The mission of BioSystems International is to "Bring biomarkers to the bedside".

BioSystems International ("BSI"), headquartered in Evry, France, operates one research laboratory in France (Genopole Evry) and one in Hungary (University of Debrecen) and is currently in late-phase contract negotiations with several international pharmaceutical companies

Since it was founded in May 2004, BSI has raised funds from Société Générale Asset Management and received grants from the Hungarian Ministry of Education and the French Innovation Agency (Oseo Anvar).

BSI's discovery technology and unique development methods combine high throughput monoclonal antibody technology, mass spectrometry and genome research technologies. It allows BSI to achieve the targeted and quantitative analysis of virtually all proteins in body fluids of treated or untreated patient groups and control subjects with the sensitivity and precision of ELISA assays faster than any other existing technologies. BSI builds a streamlined strategy to identify and validate the most promising biomarkers via a process that includes confirmation of clinical relevance on BSI's patient cohorts or clinical material from large Phase II and Phase III clinical trials of its partners. www.biosys-intl.com

About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in the research, development, manufacture and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and the supply of healthcare services. It is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of \$23.95 billion and leading positions in sales of gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology and infection products. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index

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