



PRESS RELEASE

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GENFIT IS TAKING A MAJOR STEP IN ITS DEVELOPMENT

Opening of New Laboratories

Lille, 7th June 2001 – Today, GENFIT is announcing the opening of new laboratories devoted to the discovery and development of drug candidates in cardiovascular, inflammatory and metabolic fields of research.

Covering 5500m² in the heart of the Eurasanté Park of Lille, the buildings, which have just been completed, are today being inaugurated under the patronage and in the presence of Martine AUBRY, former Minister and current Mayor of Lille. GENFIT is equipped with the most advanced technology in functional genomics, biochemistry and drug design, ever so necessary to enable its teams to discover the genetic causes of the most widespread diseases.

Jean-François MOUNEY, C.E.O., took advantage of this opportunity to call to mind that "GENFIT's researchers are now involved in three research programmes of its own, and eight in partnership with the pharmaceutical industry". He added, "With its staff of 50 and the results expected in 2001, GENFIT has come into the lead among French biotechnology companies and has thus come to be known as the European specialist in gene regulation".

Yves BONHOMME, Managing Director of MERCK-LIPHA, explained that "the long-term contract signed with GENFIT brings together all the keys to success for the opening up of new therapeutic pathways and the production of more specific drugs. We are expecting a favourable economic impact for our company, progress for the ill and a contribution to the excellent reputation of French research."

Another partner of GENFIT, UCB PHARMA, expressed, through the company's Managing Director, Édouard CROUFER, "its satisfaction to see that the UCB PHARMA researchers were able to work together with those of GENFIT, to identify, by way of genomics, therapeutic targets and discover new molecules".

About GENFIT

Established and run by Professor Jean-Charles FRUCHART and Jean-François MOUNEY, GENFIT studies gene deregulation, which is at the origin of the most widespread diseases. The GENFIT teams identify new therapeutic targets and develop drug candidates.

The most advanced programmes of GENFIT, run either on its own or in partnership with pharmaceutical companies such as AVENTIS, SANOFI-SYNTHÉLABO, MERCK-LIPHA, UCB PHARMA, etc. cover cardiovascular, inflammatory and metabolic fields of research.

Set up in Lille, GENFIT has a staff of 50 people, including 20 PhDs, doctors or equivalent. It expects to reach a turnover of €7 million (45 million FRF) in 2001.