



PRESS RELEASE

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GENFIT HAS SIGNED TWO PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH BIOMERIEUX-PIERRE FABRE AND LABORATOIRES FOURNIER

Lille, 21 November 2001 - GENFIT, a biotechnology company committed to the discovery and development of drug candidates in the fields of cardiovascular, inflammatory and metabolic diseases, is today announcing the signature of strategic agreements with two pharmaceutical laboratories, BioMERIEUX-Pierre FABRE (BMPF) and Laboratoires FOURNIER, for a global amount of 10 million euros.

The alliance between BioMERIEUX-Pierre FABRE, signed for a minimum period of three years, by way of a co-research agreement, is devoted to the identification of the molecular action mechanisms of new drug candidates in the field of cardiovascular disease.

Jean-Luc BELINGARD, Managing Director of BMPF, declared: "Our company, committed for a long time to a collaboration strategy with biotechnology companies, quickly saw GENFIT as a partner with strong potential. The expertise offered by both our teams is highly complementary. I am placing great hopes in this agreement. "

Laboratoires FOURNIER signed a partnership agreement for a period of five years, which entrusts GENFIT with bringing new therapeutic targets in the field of metabolic disorders to the fore.

Bernard HELAIN, Chairman and Managing Director of Laboratoires FOURNIER, recalled: "The leaders of both companies have known each other for a long time and know each other well. We followed the launch of GENFIT with great interest as well as its rapid development and successes. Today, with full confidence, we are joining GENFIT's group of privileged partners. By deciding to invest in GENFIT's capital, we furthermore hoped to demonstrate our long-term commitment to this promising collaboration."

Professor Jean-Charles FRUCHART, founder and President, sees these agreements as "a testimony on the part of pharmaceutical groups of GENFIT's high level of expertise. Our company has become a European specialist in gene regulation in the fields of cardiovascular disease, inflammatory and metabolic disorders."

Jean-François MOUNEY, founder and C.E.O., added: "The agreements announced today are added to long-term contracts signed with AVENTIS, MERCK-LIPHA, SANOFI-SYNTHELABO and UCB PHARMA when GENFIT first began. Loyal to its balanced growth strategy, GENFIT will continue to allocate the income from these partnerships so as to reinforce its own drug candidate development programmes."

About GENFIT

Founded and run by Professor Jean-Charles FRUCHART and Jean-François MOUNEY, GENFIT studies gene deregulation, which is at the root of the most widespread diseases. The GENFIT teams identify new therapeutic targets and develop drug candidates. The Company's most advanced programmes, conducted on its own or in partnership with pharmaceutical companies - Aventis, Bio Merieux- Pierre Fabre, Fournier, Merck-Lipha, UCB Pharma, Sanofi-Synthélabo, etc. – cover the fields of cardiovascular disease, inflammatory and metabolic disorders. Set up in Lille, the Company counts a staff of 55 employees, including 26 PhDs, doctors or equivalent, expecting to reach a turnover of 7 million EUR (45 million FRF) in 2001 with a positive net profit of 0.45 Million EUR (3 million FRF).

About bioMérieux Pierre Fabre

The bioMérieux Pierre Fabre Group is divided into five branches of activity: Pierre Fabre Médicament, Pierre Fabre Dermo-Cosmétique, Dolisos, bioMérieux and Transgène. This new unit, with a 2000 consolidated proforma turnover of 11.7 billion French francs, devotes 1.7 billion French francs to Research and Development, with the goal of building an international innovative health group tailored to tomorrow's stakes in the field of medicine. The recent acquisition of the diagnostics activity of Akzo Nobel will bring its total sales up to 13.5 billion French francs (2.06 billion EUR – based on the 2000 consolidated proforma).

About Laboratoires FOURNIER

Laboratoires Fournier, whose head office is in Dijon, reached a turnover in 2000 of 500 million EUR (3,280 million FRF), including 57% outside France. The Company is specialised in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases, metabolic disorders, diabetes, immunology and inflammatory diseases, while devoting over 12% of its turnover to R&D.

It relies on three areas for its worldwide development: internationalisation, innovation, partnerships and licence agreements. Laboratoires Fournier counts a staff of 2,672 employees working in 28 subsidiaries and sales offices in Europe, Asia, Canada, the U.S. and Japan.