

## **Partnership Agreement between Labtec GmbH and APR for a new NSAID Patch**

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**The German R&D Company Labtec GmbH and the Swiss R&D Company APR Applied Pharma Research S.A. have recently partnered together for the further development, registration and licensing out of a high tech., top of the art NSAID topical patch formulation.**

The product which is now in clinical phase III development will be submitted for registration approval in one European country as soon as the on going efficacy and tolerability studies in patients are completed; after that, and in order to extend registration approval throughout Europe, the Partners agreed to use the first country as Reference Member State in the Mutual Recognition Procedure claiming all the remaining EU Countries.

According to the Agreement, the companies will directly finance the completion of an EC registration dossier as well as the registration procedure throughout Europe. This enables the Partners to offer to their potential Licensees a "risk free" License Agreement, which means that the Licensee must not invest internal resources on the project until the product is finally registered and approved in the concerned countries.

This Partnership Agreement represents a milestone change in the strategic approach of the licensing business: innovative R&D companies normally do not have the financial resources to complete their product development so far, that registration is reached. On the other side, pharmaceutical companies do not license in products when they are still in the preliminary development stages.

This Partnership Agreement allows both R&D Partners, APR and LABTEC, to join technical and financial resources to complete and finally reach registration in Europe and outside, allowing pharmaceutical companies to enter licensing agreement before the approval is granted.

NSAID patch formulations, originally developed by some Far East companies and mainly marketed in those countries, are becoming very interesting and promising products for Europe where there is a very fast growing market for this kind of formulations which are closely consumer friendly products greatly improving patient compliance provided that such products are going to be developed strictly in compliance with the current European quality standards, rules and market requirements as APR and LABTEC agreed to do.

For pharmaceutical companies, these innovative formulations allow to reinforce strong brand defence and/or extension line strategies to consolidate their position in particular segments and market arena.

**For more information please feel free to contact one of the Partners:**

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