

Carna Biosciences and CrystalGenomics sign service agreement with Rigel Pharmaceuticals for Co-Crystal Complex

KOBE, Japan, June 20/KYODO JBN/--

Carna Biosciences, Inc. and CrystalGenomics, Inc. jointly announce the signing of a service agreement with Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in the field of structure based drug design.

Detailed structural analysis of disease targets, in the presence or absence of their putative therapeutic compounds, has become essential for the structure-based drug discovery processes now favored by many biopharmaceutical companies. This is particularly true for those investigating the modulation of known protein kinases. This detailed, 3-D structural information for kinases, crystallized alone or co-crystallized with such compounds, provides pharmaceutical companies the ability to optimize their compounds rapidly, rationally, and efficiently. Carna Biosciences and CrystalGenomics initiated their joint, collaborative promotion of crystallographic products and services since February 2005.

“Our relationship with Rigel began with their purchase of our protein kinases last year. I am proud that Rigel’s trust in Carna Biosciences and CrystalGenomics has permitted the extension of our relationship into the areas of crystallographic goods and services,” said Kohichiro Yoshino, President and CEO of Carna Biosciences. “It is our major step forward in our quest to be recognized as a “one stop shop” for kinase-related products and services. I am confident that our total solution will help our biopharmaceutical customers to significantly reduce the time and cost associated with new drug discovery and optimization processes.”

“I am glad to have Rigel, a major U.S. drug discovery company, as our customer,” said Joong-Myung Cho, President and CEO, CrystalGenomics. “The unsurpassed quality and reliability of our products and services will help us, together with Carna Biosciences, to continue the global expansion of our kinase-focused businesses.”

About Carna Biosciences

Carna Biosciences, Inc. (www.carnabio.com), founded in April 2003, is a Japanese biotechnology company providing intercellular signaling-based drug discovery services to pharmaceutical companies, as well as conducting drug discovery programs with proprietary technologies in gene cloning, active kinase protein expression, protein purification and homogeneous assay development. The company provides products and services including assay development for high-throughput screening, kinase inhibitor profiling services, bulk protein kinases and crystallization related products and services.

About CrystalGenomics

CrystalGenomics, Inc. (www.crystalgenomics.com), founded in July 2000, is a biopharmaceutical company specializing in structure-based drug discovery. CrystalGenomics focuses on the technology of efficient determination of high-resolution protein structure, and rapid generation and optimization of novel drug leads, which enables effective and productive discovery of novel leads and development candidates.

CrystalGenomics has a broad developmental pipeline in the area of diseases of cancer, antibiotics, inflammation and metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes. The developmental candidate for anti-obesity has been shown effective in ob/ob mice by indicating about 45% reduction of abdominal fat and subcutaneous fat. Programs in antibiotics and obesity are currently in preclinical study.

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