

VIVALIS STRENGTHENS ITS HUMAN AND TECHNICAL RESSOURCES IN THE FIELD OF THERAPEUTIC PROTEINS

Nantes (France) –February, 5th 2008 – In line with its strategic **EBx[®]** technology development in the field of therapeutic protein manufacturing, VIVALIS announces the reinforcement of its team with Dr. Frédéric Legros arrival, as Business Developer, together with the recruitment of several researchers and dedicated investments in high tech equipment.

VIVALIS aim is to become one of the major player in the field of cell lines dedicated to the therapeutic protein manufacturing market, market which accounts for more than 76 billion\$ today. This new business area is clearly complementary to the vaccine market and VIVALIS is benefiting of strong synergies to develop its **EBx[®]** cell line platform in both fields. In the protein field, the **EBx[®]** platform demonstrates real competitive advantages. Indeed, it has been demonstrated that the particular glycosylation pattern obtained by expression in the **EBx[®]** platform, has a positive impact on the biological activity of all tested therapeutic proteins. VIVALIS has already completed license and research agreements with 3 companies (Sanofi-Aventis, Innate Pharma et MAT Biopharma) and is currently working on others significant agreements in the protein market. In the vaccine field, 21 pharmaceutical or biotech companies are today using or testing the **EBx[®]** technology.

Dr Frédéric Legros arrival as Business Developer

Dr Frédéric Legros joins today VIVALIS as Business Developer and will be mainly dedicated to the marketing of the **EBx[®]** platform in the therapeutic protein field. Frédéric Legros received his Ph.D in cell biology at the University of PARIS 7 and has a Specialized Master's degree in innovation management (Reims Management School – Institut National Agronomie Paris Grignon). Then Frédéric Legros has first been in charge of technology transfert at FIST SA, affiliate of the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique). The last two years, Frédéric Legros was Licensing Manager in charge of the vaccine and therapeutic protein technologies at Institut Pasteur (Paris). VIVALIS will therefore benefit from Dr. Legros strong experience and know-how in vaccines and therapeutic proteins markets.

Reinforcement of the human and technical resources

Since its IPO, VIVALIS has in addition strengthened its resources in research. Indeed new researchers have join the protein team and the company has recently acquired a state of the art technology, the ClonePix robot from the UK based company Genetix which should speed-up the **EBx[®]** platform development in the field of therapeutic protein.

Franck GRIMAUD, VIVALIS CEO declared: *«We are very happy to welcome Dr Frédéric LEGROS. This arrival, together with several researchers and new investments, demonstrate VIVALIS strategic commitment in the fast growing therapeutic protein market. We are strongly convinced that the EBx[®] platform benefits of strong competitive advantages, in particular for anti-cancer antibodies. This new market represents a second growth opportunity very synergic with our initial vaccine market».*

About recombinant proteins production in EBx[®] cell lines

Monoclonal antibodies represent an important class of biotherapeutic products. A significant fraction of the monoclonal antibodies currently on the market or under development are for the treatment of cancers or auto-immune diseases, acting via Antibody Dependent Cell Cytotoxicity (ADCC) mechanism.

Nowadays, there is great interest in developing monoclonal antibodies with improved biological activities, in order to reduce therapeutic doses and manufacturing costs.

VIVALIS has developed proprietary EBx[®] cell lines derived from duck embryonic stem cells, that present interesting industrial and regulatory characteristics, in particular cell growth to high cell density (> 10 million cells/ml) in suspension in serum free medium. EBx[®] cell lines are already widely endorsed by the human and veterinary pharmaceutical industries for viral vaccines production, as accredited by the signature of numerous licenses, for example, SANOFI-PASTEUR, GLAXO-SMITH-KLINE, NOVARTIS VACCINES, NOBILON, CSL, BAVARIAN NORDIC, FORTDODGE, MERIAL, INTERVET and CEVA.

In the field of therapeutic proteins production, VIVALIS recently demonstrated that EBx[®] cells are easily genetically engineered to efficiently express recombinant proteins of interest. VIVALIS and its partners have demonstrated that the glycosylation profile of monoclonal antibodies produced in EBx[®] cells, is similar to human monoclonal antibodies glycosylation profile, with the remarkable additional feature of allowing a better cytotoxic activity to antibodies, since avian cells produce antibodies with a reduced fucose content.

EBx[®] cells have thus the potential to constitute a novel cellular platform for recombinant protein production, and, in particular monoclonal antibodies having an improved cytotoxic activity. The business model is identical to the one signed in the vaccine field: upfront payment, milestones payment and royalties on clients sales.

Next calendar:

February 14th, 2008 after Euronext Paris closing: Year 2007 Revenues

About VIVALIS (www.vivalis.com)

VIVALIS (NYSE- Euronext: VLS) is a public biopharmaceutical company that provides innovative cell-based solutions for the industrial manufacture of viral vaccines and therapeutic proteins, and develops vaccines and drugs to prevent and treat viral diseases. VIVALIS' know-how and proprietary technologies are commercially exploited in three main areas:

- Vaccine development and manufacturing. VIVALIS grants research & commercial licences to its proprietary **EBx**[®] embryonic stem cell lines to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies active in the viral vaccine business.
- Recombinant therapeutic protein and monoclonal antibody production systems development. VIVALIS partners with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in this area, to which it licences its proprietary **EBx**[®] embryonic stem cell lines to manufacture recombinant therapeutic proteins.
- The build-up of a proprietary portfolio of vaccines and anti-viral molecules.

Based in Nantes (France), VIVALIS was created in 1999 by Group GRIMAUD (1350 employees), the n°2 group worldwide in avian genetic breeding. Vivalis has established several partnerships with companies that are worldwide leaders in their respective fields, including Sanofi Pasteur, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis Vaccines, Meril and SAFB Biosciences. VIVALIS is a member of the French ATLANTIC BIOTHERAPIES cluster.

Euronext Paris – Sector C – FR0004056851

Reuters: **VLS.PA** – Bloomberg: **VLS FP**

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