



Cilian receives SME-innovation funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for the ciliate-based production of disease controlling antirheumatic drugs.

Münster, Germany, January 12th, 2011:

Cilian AG received funding for the optimization of its proprietary ciliate-based expression technology CIPEX applied in the efficient production of disease controlling antirheumatic drugs. This funding stems from the German government's SME-innovation program in support of cutting-edge research.

Cilian AG aims to produce effective and safe biopharmaceuticals through the use of ciliates as an innovative production platform.

Cilian AG acquired a substantial amount of technological expertise in the field of ciliate-based protein production. With the successful expression of a monoclonal model antibody in 2009, the company was able to demonstrate the ability of CIPEX to produce complex glycoproteins. The use of ciliates for recombinant protein production offers significant advantages over conventional CHO cell based expression systems. CIPEX combines the inexpensive growth and easy scale-up of microbial systems with the ability to perform N-glycosylation of eukaryots. These features along with the high biosafety provide CIPEX with considerable advantages in biopharmaceutical development and production.

As part of the SME-innovation program of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Cilian AG will contribute scientific knowledge gained in the production of disease controlling antirheumatic drugs (DCARDs). These therapeutics are applied in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis due to their ability to alter the course and progression of disease, as opposed to simply treating symptoms such as inflammation and pain. In 2008, the global rheumatoid arthritis therapeutics market recorded sales of 35 billion US Dollars. Within the framework of this three year project promoted by the German government, CIPEX will be optimized regarding space-time-yield for complex glycoproteins. With the application of the optimized ciliate system for the production of DCARDs, Cilian AG will ensure access to a market with high international potential.

For more information:

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