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Oxis Biotech Signs Exclusive License Agreement With University Of Minnesota For Novel NK Cell TriKE Targeted Immunotherapy Platform Technology

LOS ANGELES, CA / ACCESSWIRE / July 25, 2016 /Oxis International Inc. (OTCQB: OXIS and Euronext Paris OXI.PA) announced today that its wholly owned subsidiary, Oxis Biotech Inc., has entered into an agreement with the University of Minnesota to develop and commercialize cancer therapies using Trispecific Killer Engager (TriKE) technology developed by researchers at the university to target NK cells to cancer.

Anthony J. Cataldo, Chief Executive Officer of Oxis, said the new agreement provides the company with a significant asset. He said TriKE technology is important because it's highly effective at killing cancer cells with minimal side effects in pre-clinical models.

TriKE technology has several benefits compared to CAR-T therapy, which is known to be expensive and has been shown to carry significant side effects. Both Kite Pharma (Nasdaq:KITE) and Juno Therapeutics Inc. (Nasdaq:JUNO) have gained significant attention for their CAR-T efforts.

"The bispecific antibody platform is well known for its ability to kill cancer cells via antibody dependent cell-mediated toxicity (ADCC). However, current successes in immunotherapy indicate that enhanced killing will not be enough," said Mr. Cataldo. "We believe the TriKE platform from University of Minnesota has found a way to expand the immune cell population within the patient, but not at the expense of creating a toxic environment."

Jeffrey Miller, M.D., a professor of medicine and deputy director of the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota said, "The TriKE platform we have licensed to Oxis is designed to address the issue of making NK cells antigen specific by modifying a bispecific antibody platform and adding a third signal by inserting a modified IL-15 cross linker. IL-15 is known as a chief activator of NK cells that can enhance an anti-cancer immune response. This new trispecific platform is unique because it simultaneously delivers a priming, expansion, killing, and activating signal directly to the immune cell as it is in contact with the cancer cell. We are now working with Oxis to go forward with FDA approved clinical trials to demonstrate TriKE safety and efficacy. Unlike standard anti-cancer antibodies, we believe that TriKE can mediate specificity and deliver an immune expansion signal locally (instead of systemically) which has the potential to diminish toxicity."

Daniel A. Vallera, Ph.D., a researcher and professor at the University of Minnesota said, "We are very excited to advance the TriKE technology in collaboration with Oxis."

The medical journal Science Translational Medicine recently highlighted TriKE research by the University of Minnesota's Vallera and Miller. Science Translational Medicine designated the research as an "Editors' Choice," and said "TriKEs were superior in restoring potent antigen-specific NK cell responses against AML targets and mediated robust and specific NK cell proliferation" (compared to bispecific killer engagers without the modified IL-15 linker).

ABOUT OXIS INTERNATIONAL, INC. - Oxis International, Inc., through a wholly owned subsidiary, Oxis Biotech, Inc., develops innovative drugs focused on the treatment of cancer and other unmet medical needs. Oxis' lead drug candidate, OXS-1550 (DT2219ARL) is a novel bispecific scFv recombinant fusion protein-drug conjugate composed of the variable regions of the heavy and light chains of anti-CD19 and anti-CD22 antibodies and a modified form of diphtheria toxin as its cytotoxic drug payload. OXS-1550 simultaneously targets cancer cells expressing the CD19 receptor or CD22 receptor or both receptors. When OXS-1550 binds to cancer cells, the cancer cells internalize the drug and are killed due to the action of drug's cytotoxic payload. OXS-1550 has demonstrated success in early human clinical trials in patients with relapsed/refractory B-cell lymphoma or leukemia. OXS-4235 is a small molecule therapeutic candidate targeting the treatment of multiple myeloma and associated osteolytic lesions. In in vitro and in vivo models of multiple myeloma and osteoporosis, OXS-4235 demonstrated the ability to kill multiple myeloma cells, and decrease osteolytic lesions in bone. OXIS' lead drug candidate, OXS-2175, is a small molecule therapeutic candidate targeting the treatment of triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC). In in vitro and in vivo models of TNBC, OXS-2175 demonstrated the ability to inhibit metastasis.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS - Except for historical information contained herein, the statements in this release are forward-looking and made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are inherently unreliable and actual results may differ materially. Examples of forward-looking statements in this news release include statements regarding the payment of dividends, marketing and distribution plans, development activities and anticipated operating results. Factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements include such factors as the Company's ability to accomplish its business initiatives, significant fluctuations in marketing expenses and ability to achieve and expand significant levels of revenues, or recognize net income, from the sale of its products and services, as well as the introduction of competing products, or management's ability to attract and maintain qualified personnel necessary for the development and commercialization of its planned products, and other information that may be detailed from time to time in the Company's filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Company website: www.oxis.com

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