

ASX Announcement and Media Release

11 June 2004

SciGen Limited

SciGen to Manufacture Hep B Vaccine and Increase Market Coverage

Biopharmaceutical company, SciGen Limited (“SciGen”), has renegotiated its license for the hepatitis B vaccine, Sci-B-Vac, resulting in it taking over manufacture of the vaccine, entering new markets and capturing rights for a new combined hepatitis A and B vaccine product and a therapeutic vaccine for hepatitis B.

The opportunity has come about as SciGen’s licensing partner, Savient Pharmaceuticals Inc., has decided to cease manufacturing Sci-B-Vac and rely on its licensees to do so.

This will allow Savient to focus on its core E Coli technology in the manufacturing of other recombinant products in its portfolio such as human growth hormone.

Features of SciGen’s revised agreement with Savient include:

- an extension of the term to 17 years from execution of the agreement
- manufacturing of the vaccine by SciGen through transfer of the technology “clone”
- allowing SciGen to extend the number of potential manufacturing sites
- worldwide rights for SciGen to supply the vaccine to those with rights to sell and distribute, such as Berna in Europe
- rights for SciGen to market combination hepatitis A and B vaccines in the Asia Pacific region
- Asia-Pacific rights for SciGen to develop and market a therapeutic Vaccine developed from Sci-B-Vac for the treatment of hepatitis.

SciGen intends to initiate manufacturing in India with its local partner, Shreya Biotech, and will consider another Asian manufacturing site at a later stage.

SciGen has secured the assistance of an expert technical team, formerly of Savient, to supervise the process of technology transfer which will take approximately six months.

This will result in a temporary interruption to supply of the vaccine and a consequent effect on SciGen’s revenue which SciGen expects to be offset by other benefits from the new license agreement.

Managing Director of SciGen, Mr Mark Compton said among the substantial benefits from the new license agreement were worldwide rights to supply the vaccine, Asia Pacific sales and marketing rights to any further clinical developments such as use of the vaccine as a therapeutic agent and combination vaccines.

“SciGen’s contract manufacturing partner, Shreya Biotech, is working on completing its new biotechnology manufacturing facility by January 2005 and recent information from Shreya indicates this project remains on time,” Mr Compton said.

For the first half of the year to June 30, 2004, revenue from Sci-B-Vac was approximately 15% of SciGen’s total revenue.

SciGen expects that with expanded rights under the revised agreement, Sci-B-Vac revenues would continue to grow to be an increasingly significant contributor to future revenue.

The revised agreement is subject to the approval of the Office of the Chief Scientist of Israel which had earlier given its approval in principle to the technology transfer to SciGen. Savient and SciGen do not expect any delay in the approval process

About SciGen

SciGen Ltd is a biopharmaceutical company essentially involved in commercialising later stage research. It co-develops and markets genetically engineered biopharmaceutical products for human healthcare. SciGen focuses in the areas of gastroenterology, endocrinology and immunology. Its product portfolio includes vaccines and therapeutics.

SciGen acquires rights to manufacture, distribute and market biopharmaceutical products under exclusive licensing arrangements. SciGen’s portfolio currently includes proprietary biotechnology-derived products, and biogeneric products, which can allow for faster entry into the market, as biogeneric products have undergone much of the clinical development and trials required to bring new drugs to market. This minimises the risks associated with early stage product development. SciGen currently undertakes R&D activities in collaboration with strategic partners and institutions.

SciGen’s competitive advantage is in identifying research with commercial potential at an early stage to which it adds its expertise in gaining regulatory approval and bringing products to market

SciGen is a Singaporean biotechnology company, established in 1988 and listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX code SIE). SciGen is headquartered in Singapore, with

offices also in Australia, USA, Korea, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Philippines and partners in India, China, Indonesia, Israel, Poland and the Netherlands.

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