



## **Novel antibodies discovered by GSF licensed to Actinium Pharmaceuticals for the development of targeted gastric cancer treatment**

### **Ascenion mediates license agreement between GSF and Actinium Pharmaceuticals**

September 7, 2005 – Munich, Germany and Florham Park, New Jersey, US – In a deal mediated by Ascenion GmbH, Actinium Pharmaceuticals obtained exclusive worldwide rights for the development and commercialization of monoclonal antibodies which target a mutant form of E-cadherin (delta8 and delta9-cadherin) conjugated to alpha particle-emitting isotopes. These antibodies were discovered and characterized by researchers at the GSF - German National Research Centre for Environment and Health as promising tools for specific gastric cancer treatment. D8- and D9-cadherin are only present on certain gastric cancer cells, but not on healthy tissues. They are particularly frequent in patients with diffuse-type gastric cancer. Under the terms of the agreement, GSF will obtain an upfront fee from Actinium Pharmaceuticals as well as milestone and royalty payments in line with product progress and future commercialization.

Gastric cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men and the third leading cause of cancer death in women. By the time the disease is diagnosed, it is often in an advanced stage and the prognosis is poor, in particular when single tumor cells or micro-metastases have spread from the original tumor into the peritoneal cavity. Currently, there is no satisfactory treatment available for this stage of the disease. The present standard of care includes chemotherapy and external radiation, both of which involve severe side-effects due to their unspecific mode of action.

“The  $\alpha$ -emitter coupled antibody d9MAB could for the first time enable a specific and effective treatment for this group of patients by delivering its cytotoxic payload precisely to gastric cancer cells. As a result, tumor cells are killed while healthy cells remain intact,” Howard Wachtler, CEO of Actinium Pharmaceuticals commented.

The therapeutic potential of this approach gained further support from studies in a mouse model of peritoneal tumor cell spread demonstrating that treatment with  $^{213}\text{Bi}$ -d9MAB leads to a substantial increase of mean survival relative to untreated controls.<sup>1</sup>

“I am pleased that the ingenious work of GSF scientists was protected early with the help of a patent which enabled Ascenion to find a professional partner to progress the development of a new drug against gastric cancer. Actinium is a recognized leader in alpha particle immunotherapy and an ideal partner to take the scientific results by GSF forward into the clinic,” said Christian Stein, CEO of Ascenion GmbH. ###



Actinium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



**Contact for Ascenion:**

Dr. Anja Zimmermann, Analyst  
T: +49 (0)89 318814-16  
E: zimmermann@ascenion.de

Dr. Peter Ruile, Chief Operating Officer  
T: +49 (0)89 318814-14  
E: ruile@ascenion.de

**Contact for Actinium Pharmaceuticals:**

Howard S. Wachtler, President and CEO  
T: +1 973 377 0713  
E: hwachtler@actiniumpharmaceuticals.com

Dragan Cicic, MD, Medical Director  
T: + 1 973 377 5382  
E: dcicic@actiniumpharmaceuticals.com

**Notes to Editors**

**Ascenion GmbH**

Ascenion is an intellectual property asset management company with a strong life-science focus. Ascenion supports and advises scientists and research institutions with regard to the protection and exploitation of their intellectual property (patents), and mediates and negotiates license agreements between research institutions and industry. Among Ascenion's particular strengths are start-up coaching and active investment management. Ascenion is a 100% subsidiary of the Life-Science Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Research and the exclusive commercialization partner for eight life-science research institutions of Helmholtz and Leibniz Association. Ascenion's headquarters are in Munich, with further offices in Berlin, Braunschweig and Neuherberg. More information at [www.ascenion.de](http://www.ascenion.de)

**Actinium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

Actinium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is engaged in the development and commercialization of alpha particle immunotherapeutics based on its unique patent position for the utilization of actinium-225 and bismuth-213. It has facilities in Florham Park, New Jersey and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. More information at [www.actiniumpharmaceuticals.com](http://www.actiniumpharmaceuticals.com)

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<sup>1</sup> Huber R. et al; Locoregional Radioimmunotherapy of Intraperitoneal Tumor Cell Dissemination Using a Tumor-specific Monoclonal Antibody, *Clinical Cancer Research*, Vol. 9: 3922s-3928s, **2003** (Suppl.)