AVECIA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF OLIGO EXPERIENCE!

2013 is a year of remarkable milestones for Nitto Denko Avecia, the oligonucleotide contract manufacturing organizations (CMOs) industry leader. With its first outsourced program initiated in 1993, the company is celebrating 20 years of providing oligonucleotide development and manufacture services to the biotech and pharma markets. Throughout its evolution from UK based ICI and Zeneca, to its establishment of a US headquarters and its subsequent sale to Nitto Denko in 2011, Avecia has firmly established itself as a leader in oligonucleotide service, expertise, and delivery.

OLIGROW: SMALL SCALE OLIGO PRODUCTION!

Avecia is pleased to unveil OliGROW, its new small scale oligonucleotide service designed to supplement the company’s existing large scale production capabilities. OliGROW applies Avecia’s expertise in oligonucleotide manufacture, and scales it down to supply non-GMP quantities of oligos, from 10s of μgrams to 10s of grams, quickly, efficiently, and with Avecia quality built in from the beginning. Developed for the research community and the pre-clinical oligonucleotide customer base, OliGROW compounds are fully manufactured within Avecia, using equipment, reagents, protocols and methods close to those used in Avecia’s large-scale cGMP manufacturing plants. As customers move from early work into the clinic, they can GROW with Avecia and benefit from key advantages, including the consistency of equipment and analytical techniques, and scalable, well-designed development and manufacture processes. By partnering early with Avecia and benefiting from the company’s extensive technical expertise in oligonucleotide manufacture, clients can avoid costly technical transfers and development work at later stages. OliGROW can also be combined with Avecia’s oligonucleotide radiolabeling service, enabling critical ADME and toxicology studies to support an IND as well as with our unique experience in synthesis of oligonucleotide conjugates [1]. For more information on SSOU, or on any of the other services and advantages that Avecia can now offer its customers, please visit www.avecia.com.

NEW ACQUISITION: GIRINDUS AMERICA INC.’S CMO BUSINESS

The company’s continuing commitment to the future of the oligonucleotide industry was demonstrated in January 2013, as Avecia completed its acquisition of the assets of Girindus America Inc. Customers familiar to both sites will recognize the combined management team, under the leadership of Executive Chairman Mehrdad Tabrizi. The combined industry experience of the management team, along with the expertise of its employees, creates a stronger organization with additional capacity, flexibility, and expertise than either could offer alone.
CLIENT BENEFITS

Avecia is pleased to continue operations with two cGMP, FDA inspected manufacturing facilities- its Milford, MA headquarters and the Cincinnati, OH facility formerly run by Girindus America Inc. With the second facility comes additional security of supply; a particularly significant benefit for Avecia’s mid to late phase and commercial customers. As a market leader in late phase clinical oligonucleotide production, Avecia is acutely aware of the needs of its clients, including the ability to deliver product when needed to meet clinical and commercial demands. The combined company also provides extensive benefits for its early phase customers, including increased capacity, greater flexibility, and a wealth of oligonucleotide development knowledge.

RADIOLABELING

Avecia will continue to offer the existing radiolabeling services at the Cincinnati facility. The service includes custom options for tritium and carbon-14 labeling, and is a valuable tool in prepping compounds for ADME studies. The service is available for Avecia’s oligonucleotide customers, as well as peptide and small molecule clients who require custom label work.

SMALL MOLECULES AND SPECIALTY AMIDITES

Avecia’s new capabilities include small molecule development and manufacture. While capable of performing an extensive range of chemistries at all phases of development, the service adds a particular benefit to Avecia’s oligonucleotide customers with specialized amidite needs, providing options for custom amidites, including di- and tri-nucleotides.

REFERENCES

1. Our ASIA-Tides presentation on oligonucleotide conjugate synthesis is available on request.