



PRESS RELEASE

Crucell Secures Exclusive Patent License from NIH to Commercialize Ebola Vaccines

Leiden, The Netherlands, March 18, 2005 – Dutch biotechnology company Crucell N.V. (Euronext, NASDAQ: CRXL) announced today that it has obtained an exclusive license to certain patents of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to develop and commercialize recombinant vaccines against Ebola.

The patents cover valuable vaccine components, such as the Ebola antigens and vectors. In addition, the license covers 'one-shot' emergency vaccination strategies that have proven to be effective in relevant animal models.

"This license uniquely positions Crucell to commercialize an Ebola vaccine," said Crucell CEO, Dr Ronald Brus. "It underlines our joint commitment to develop an effective countermeasure against an important potential bioterrorist threat."

About Crucell

Crucell N.V. is a biotechnology company focused on developing vaccines and antibodies that prevent and treat infectious diseases, including Ebola, influenza, malaria, West Nile virus and rabies. The company's development programs include collaborations with Sanofi Pasteur for influenza vaccines, the U.S. National Institutes of Health for Ebola and malaria vaccines, and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and New York University for a malaria vaccine. Crucell's products are based on its innovative PER.C6[®] technology, which offers a safer, more efficient way to produce biopharmaceuticals. The company licenses its PER.C6[®] technology to the biopharmaceutical industry on a mostly non-exclusive basis. Licensees and partners include DSM Biologics, GSK, Centocor/J&J and Merck & Co., Inc. Crucell is headquartered in Leiden, The Netherlands, and is listed on the Euronext and NASDAQ stock exchanges (ticker symbol CRXL). For more information, please visit www.crucell.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. We have identified certain important factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in such forward-looking statements. For information relating to these factors please refer to our Form 20-F, as filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on February 27, 2004, and the section entitled "Risk Factors". The company prepares its financial statements under generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP).

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