



Nokad raises funds from Cap Decisif and Genopole® 1^{er} Jour (G1J)

Evry (France), July 3rd 2005 – Nokad, a biotech company located on the Genopole® biopark, announces an increase in its share capital thanks to the Ile-de-France-based seed capital fund Cap Decisif. (www.capdecisif.com) and co-investment by the Genopole 1^{er} Jour fund (www.genopole.com).

Founded in January 2004 after having received 2 years of business support from Genopole® Entreprises, Nokad has since developed unique know-how for inactivating the *in vivo* production of one or more proteins in animals via induction of a specific auto-immune reaction. The animals thus obtained (referred to as "functional knock-outs" or "KO-like") constitute valuable tools for studying the role of proteins involved in disease processes or for identifying new therapeutic targets.

Nokad's KO-like animals display several major advantages: a significant gain in time and the ability to create KO-like models in all animal species and with all types of genetic backgrounds. *"It takes 6 months to produce KO-like animals, compared with 12 to 24 months with standard knock-out techniques"* explains Aymeric Dugray, Nokad's CEO. *"In addition, KO-Like animals can be generated in healthy or diseased adult animals"*. The company has already signed its first development contract with the Cochin Institute (Paris). According to Véronique Dufey, CEO of Genopole Entreprises : *"Nokad is one of the start-ups that we are seeking to develop because it has a pragmatic and realistic market approach"*.

"Investment by Cap Decisif and G1J is a great endorsement", continues Aymeric Dugray. *"This support will enable us to start commercialization of the products that the pharma industry and biotech companies are waiting for. It should also allow us to finalize our KO-like rat model"*. According to Catherine Boule at Cap Decisif, *"the KO-like technology responds to two major concerns from companies who use genetically modified animal models - the lead-in time for KO generation and the ability to work in species other than the mouse. Nokad's unique knowledge of the auto-immune response confers it with the capacity to generate antibodies even against weakly immunogenic proteins"*.

Marina Bunelle, a member of G1J's Management Board, explains that *"G1J's vocation is to invest at a very early stage, from company foundation onwards. In the case of Nokad, Genopole® had co-financed a proof-of-concept reinforcement phase in order to consolidate its scientific validation before seeking funds from G1J. This crucial step enabled Nokad to raise funds from Cap Decisif, with which G1J is performing its first co-investment"*.

About Cap Decisif:

Founded in late 2001 with support from CDC Entreprises and the Île-de-France Region as part of a Call for Projects by the French Minister Delegate for Research and New Technologies, Cap Decisif is a €17 million investment fund dedicated to seed finance for innovative, hi-tech companies based in the Île-de-France Region. Cap Decisif invests in high-potential companies in diversified sectors such as ICT, life science/biotech and the engineering sciences. www.capdecisif.com

About G1J:

Founded in late on the initiative of Genopole and thanks to support from 16 shareholders (including CDC Entreprises), Genopole 1st Day is France's only example of a €2 million biotech pre-seed fund, anchored on an academic campus/industrial biopark and based around an operational team providing business support for company start-up and development.

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