

Press Releases

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MerLion Pharmaceuticals Pte Ltd Receives Frost & Sullivan Market Penetration Leadership Award

London, U.K. – 2nd March 2006- The 2005 Frost & Sullivan Market Penetration Leadership Award for the Asia Pacific drug discovery markets is presented to Singapore-based MerLion Pharmaceuticals Pte Ltd.. The company has been selected for this award based on its high-growth, novel solutions in high throughput screening (HTS), chemical analysis and lead optimisation.

In addition to an impressive portfolio of lead compounds in the major areas of bacterial infection, cancer and immunomodulation, the company has acquired natural product libraries and legacy libraries that represent an unparalleled collection of geographic and taxonomic diversity.

“MerLion Pharmaceuticals has established a substantial clinical development strategy for these products that will have a strong impact in the Asia Pacific region, and ultimately lead the company to new heights,” says Frost & Sullivan Healthcare Analyst Dr. Amarpreet Dhiman. “The company is well-positioned for profitable growth and market penetration with a significant competitive edge in this field of drug discovery.”

At the same time, MerLion Pharmaceuticals is actively engaged in the development and commercialisation of lead compounds emerging from its internal discovery programmes, with particular focus being placed on investigating promising drug candidates for use in several key therapeutic indications.

In targeting bottlenecks in the drug discovery process, the company leverages advanced HTS technology, assay optimisation and medicinal chemistry capabilities. Its core competencies include the rapid isolation and characterisation of natural product chemical structures during the biological, chemical and clinical phases of the drug discovery process.

The success of MerLion Pharmaceuticals' market penetration strategies are confirmed by its outstanding revenues. Since its inception in 2002, the firm has collaborated with several leading multinational pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies and research institutes (including Abbott Laboratories, Arpida SA, Astellas Pharma Inc, Athelas SA, Johns- Hopkins, KuDOS Pharmaceuticals, NovImmune and Schering-Plough Inc), to identify and develop new drug candidates for a wide range of molecular targets.

Moreover, the company's recent achievements in forging strategic partnerships with key organisations including Dow AgroSciences, Cancer Research Technologies Ltd, The Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IMCB), Merck & Co. Inc, The National Cancer Institute (USA), Nura Inc, Novartis Institute of Tropical Diseases and Sankyo Co. Ltd, reflect its ongoing commitment to

building a strong pipeline of preclinical candidate leads for drug discovery.

“MerLion Pharmaceuticals’ plans to accelerate the development of target compounds towards commercialisation, while maintaining a productive discovery engine combined with top-quality management and marketing will underline its continued market penetration of the highly competitive and increasingly globally focused drug discovery industry,” concludes Dr. Dhiman.

About Frost & Sullivan

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