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News

BioWa Announces Office Relocation to La Jolla, California

La Jolla, CA, USA, March 18, 2013 -- BioWa, Inc. (President and CEO: Yasunori Yamaguchi; "BioWa"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co., Ltd. (Tokyo: 4151; President & CEO: Nobuo Hanai; "Kyowa Hakko Kirin"), today announced that it is relocating its office from Princeton, NJ, USA to La Jolla, California, USA.

BioWa develops partnerships with pharmaceutical companies and biotechs through the licensing of proprietary therapeutic antibody technologies POTELLIGENT®^{*1} and COMPLEGENT®.^{*2} These technologies were developed by Kyowa Hakko Kirin and BioWa is the exclusive worldwide licensor. Kyowa Hakko Kirin has been very keen on obtaining opportunities of external innovations through collaborations with various partners in drug research and development.

To accelerate research collaborations for Kyowa Hakko Kirin's drug discovery research, BioWa moved to La Jolla, California, where many world leading research organizations and biotechs exist, in order to leverage and expand the network that BioWa has been building up through its licensing business. Through the relocation, in addition to licensing the antibody technologies, BioWa will be more engaged in collaborations with research organizations and biotechs to obtain promising external innovations. BioWa will work closely with Kyowa Hakko Kirin California, Inc.^{*3} (La Jolla, California; President: Kinya Ohgami; "Kyowa Hakko Kirin California") which has been focusing on exploratory and translational research. (BioWa's new office is located in the Kyowa Hakko Kirin California facility.)

BioWa will contribute to healthy, fulfilling, and comfortable lives for all as a subsidiary of Kyowa Hakko Kirin.

*1 About POTELLIGENT[®] Technology

POTELLIGENT[®] is Kyowa Hakko Kirin's unique technology for the production of antibodies with enhanced antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) activity. This technique enables production of antibodies with a reduced amount of fucose in their carbohydrate structure. Non-clinical studies have demonstrated that antibodies produced using this technology killed target cells more efficiently than conventional antibodies and exhibited stronger antitumor effects.

*2 About COMPLEGENT[®] Technology

COMPLEGENT[®] is Kyowa Hakko Kirin's unique technology for the production of antibodies with enhanced complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) activity. The antibodies with enhanced CDC activity are produced by incorporating a part of the amino acid sequence of IgG3 into the sequence of IgG1, the standard isotype for therapeutic antibodies.

*3 About Kyowa Hakko Kirin California

Kyowa Hakko Kirin California was established in 1988 as a research site in La Jolla, California, with the mission of developing exploratory research topics. The company is also engaged in collaborative research with the La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology (President & Chief Scientific Officer: Mitchell Kronenberg) that is located within the same facility.

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