

The logo for DiaSorin, featuring the company name in white serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

DIASORIN S.P.A. SIGNS AN AGREEMENT IN JAPAN WITH ADVANCED LIFE SCIENCE INSTITUTE FOR AN INNOVATIVE DIAGNOSTIC ASSAY TO DETECT THE HEPATITIS B VIRUS

Saluggia (Vercelli), September 22nd, 2008 – Diasorin S.p.A., a company that operates in the global market for in vitro diagnostics, entered into a development and licensing agreement with Advanced Life Science Institute Inc. (ALSI), a company of the Fujirebio Inc. Group in Japan that has been active for more than 40 years in the field of in vitro diagnostics as a developer and manufacturer of reagents in the field of infectious diseases.¹

The agreement signed with ALSI will enable Diasorin to develop a new highly sensitive test based on CLIA technology for the Hepatitis B virus, a worldwide market estimated at about 500 million euros.

Currently, Hepatitis B is still a major global health problem: up to 90% of infected neonates develop chronicity and the same is true for 5% to 10% of adults. In many regions of the world, chronic Hepatitis B is still the major cause of liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. It is estimated that about 370 million people are chronic carriers of the Hepatitis B virus.² The main obstacle to virus detection is posed by the mutations that the virus is capable of developing. These mutations, which are statistically more frequent in regions with a high population density, such as China and Latin America, are not always recognized by the tests currently on the market.

The test that Diasorin intends to develop and bring to market (excluding Japan) by 2010 will be able to detect the presence in the bloodstream of the Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), irrespective of the occurrence of mutations. The new test will place in the hands of physicians a safe and

¹ Additional information at www.fujirebio.co.jp

² World Journal of Gastroenterology, January 2007 “Recent advances in hepatitis B virus research: a German point of view.” D. Glebe.

reliable diagnostic tool that will reduce significantly the risk of failing to detect a disease and thus the risk of making it irreversible.

“ By enabling us to combine the ALSI’ s high quality raw materials and knowhow with Diasorin’ s proven expertise in developing assays based on CLIA technology,” said Carlo Rosa, Diasorin’ s Chief Executive Officer, “ the agreement we just signed will enable our Group to underscore, ever more unequivocally, its position as a specialist in the area of infectious diseases by making available to clinicians a highly reliable and sensitive tool that will help minimize failures to detect the Hepatitis B virus.”

About Diasorin

Diasorin S.p.A., an international player in the market for in vitro diagnostics, develops, produces and markets reagent kits for clinical laboratory diagnostics. The Diasorin Group comprises 12 companies based in Europe, the United States, Central and South America and Asia. It has more than 1,000 employees, including over 90 research and development specialists, and operates four manufacturing and research facilities in Saluggia (Vercelli, Italy), Dietzenbach (Germany), Stillwater (USA) and Dublin (Ireland). Thanks to its direct sales organization and an international network of over 80 independent distributors, the Group is present in more than 60 countries, offering a broad array of high quality products that includes comprehensive lines for each of the clinical segments in which the Group operates: infectious and viral diseases, thyroid pathologies, oncology, fertility testing etc.

Additional information is available on our website: www.diasorin.it

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