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## Partnering Spotlight: Kenta Biotech Anticipates the Final Phase IIA Results of its Fully Human Antibody by mid 2009

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A rare find among partnering candidates at BIO-Europe Spring® is Kenta Biotech offering late stage development opportunity for a family of four complementary antibodies targeting the most difficult to treat hospital infections, a market yet untouched by antibody therapies. The lead product is in Phase IIA for treatment of nosocomial pneumonia. The deal includes a companion Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) diagnostic kit.

"Kenta is pioneering antibody therapies for life-threatening infections" says Laurence Blazianu, the CBO for Kenta Biotech who also explained that Kenta Biotech's proprietary MAbIgX® technology platform enables the generation of an advanced class of fully human monoclonal antibodies expected to have superior safety and efficacy profiles against a category of hospital-acquired superbugs.

The company and its pipeline will be presented during BIO-Europe Spring in Milan. "By mid 2009 we are planning to complete our ongoing Phase IIA trial with our lead compound" she said. "With our top line results we search for a deal with a global partner that has a focus on hospital care and a sales force addressing Intensive Care Specialists."

"The medical need is so intense in the field of nosocomial infections that introducing highly targeted, efficacious and safe treatment options will result in a very fast adoption" she added. In spite of adequate antibiotic therapy the resistance of these superbugs is a growing concern and the only promising strategy is shifting to more targeted therapeutics.

She said "Kenta pursues a strategy of developing the antibodies until end of Phase II in an indication with a high unmet medical need. Kenta has several promising antibodies against bacterial and viral hospital-acquired infections in preclinical development."

The MAbIgX® technology also has the potential for an expansion into other disease areas such as for example cancer, although the company currently focuses on lethal infections. Somewhere between 1.8 to 3.7 million patients in the USA, and 3.0 million patients in Europe develop some type of nosocomial infection each year. Some of those infections acquired during the hospital stay are life threatening. The reported mortality rate can be as high as 70 percent for those patients with ventilated associated pneumonia caused by pseudomonas aeruginosa.

Based in Bern, Switzerland, Kenta Biotech was founded in 2006 as a spin-off of Berna Biotech Ltd. Independent private investors and management together hold the company share capital.

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