



April 30, 2008

For Immediate Release

UMN Pharma, Inc.

UMN Pharma Acquires Factory Site in Akita for the Manufacturing of Pandemic Influenza Vaccine

UMN Pharma Inc. (headquartered in Akita, President & CEO: Shuichi Kanazashi, M.D., Ph.D.) today announced the acquisition of a 13,000 m² pandemic influenza vaccine factory site located in the Akita New Town Industrial Park (Goshono Yumoto, Akita City) from the Akita Prefectural Government. This acquisition will allow UMN Pharma to build a manufacturing facility for the production of UMN-0501, a pandemic influenza vaccine being developed by UMN Pharma that will begin Phase I/II clinical trials in June of this year. A total of 2 billion yen will be invested in this project with operation scheduled to begin in 2010.

UMN-0501 is a vaccine manufactured by cell culture using recombinant protein*. Because this manufacturing method enables the production of large quantities of vaccine in a short period of time as compared to the existing vaccine manufactured from embryonated chicken eggs, we will have the ability to produce pandemic influenza vaccine in sufficient quantity for 10 million people a year. UMN Pharma's factory site is large enough to allow for expansion, thus enabling vaccine production for up to 100 million people a year.

Shuichi Kanazashi, President and Chief Executive Officer of UMN Pharma, comments that "in response to the concerns about an increasing threat of pandemic influenza virus, we are developing UMN-0501 which will enable production of larger quantities of vaccine in a shorter period of time, and we will do our best to continue with the smooth implementation of clinical trials in order to provide a steady supply of UMN-0501 as soon as possible"

«For your reference: About Pandemic Flu»

Pandemic flu is a viral disease that occurs when the avian (bird) influenza virus emerges in people and mutates allowing sustained person-to-person transmission. Because people have little or no immunity to the unknown virus, it may cause serious illness and easily sweep across the country or world in a very short amount of time thereby potentially causing a pandemic outbreak.

*: A protein produced by gene recombination technology. The proteins can be artificially produced by inserting desired genes into the cells of Escherichia coli, yeast, insects and animals. The recombination proteins of insulin, interferon and antibody medicine have already been approved as medicines.



About UMN Pharma Inc.

UMN Pharma Inc. was incorporated in 2004 as a company dedicated to developing innovative pharmaceutical drugs that will satisfy unmet medical needs. We select substances with high potential to become medical products from drug seeds in universities and companies, and promote efficient development of the products. Our main current products include vaccines against influenza virus and therapeutic agent for pancreatitis.

Incorporated: April 20, 2004

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