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## NEOVACS SIGNS STRATEGIC SOURCING AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY INTERFERON ALPHA FOR PHASE IIB LUPUS TRIAL

**Paris, May 5, 2014 – NEOVACS (Alternext Paris : ALNEV)**, a leader in active immunotherapies for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, today announced it entered into a strategic agreement with Pharmedartis to supply the interferon alpha (IFN $\alpha$ ) needed for the manufacturing of IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid for Neovacs' upcoming phase IIb clinical trial in lupus.

Under the agreement, Pharmedartis will begin delivering IFN $\alpha$  to the Company in the third quarter of 2014. Based on the planned delivery and manufacturing timeline, Neovacs expects to begin its phase IIb trial of IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid for the treatment of lupus in mid-2015.

*"This strategic supply agreement is an important first step toward the launch of our next clinical trial for IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid immunotherapy. Through Pharmedartis, Neovacs will benefit from the Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology's leading capabilities and expertise. Fraunhofer IME will notably prepare the GMP<sup>1</sup> campaign for the production of interferon. With Pharmedartis as our supply partner, we believe that we are well equipped for the next development phase of IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid,"* said Miguel Sieler, CEO of Neovacs.

### **About the IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid phase IIb clinical trial in lupus**

Neovacs plans to initiate a phase IIb clinical trial of IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid for the treatment of lupus in mid-2015. This multi-center international study will have a primary endpoint of clinical efficacy. Lupus is a chronic and systemic auto-immune disease with significant medical need. It affects more than 3 million people in the 7 major pharmaceutical markets<sup>2</sup>, with 1.5 million cases in the US<sup>3</sup> and 1.2 million cases in China alone<sup>4</sup>.

### **About Pharmedartis**

Pharmedartis GmbH is a biotechnology company founded by experienced scientists of the German Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology (IME), Aachen. Pharmedartis strives to improve the quality of life by providing better proteins for biopharmaceuticals at lower costs in a shorter timeframe.

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<sup>1</sup> GMP : Good manufacturing Practices required in order to conform to guidelines recommended by agencies which control authorization and licensing for manufacture and sale of food, drug products, and active pharmaceutical products.

<sup>2</sup> Source : Datamonitor 2011 // La Merie 2012

<sup>3</sup> Lupus Foundation of America <http://www.lupus.org/about/statistics-on-lupus>

<sup>4</sup> Source : Datamonitor 2011 // La Merie 2012

**About Neovacs**

Neovacs is a biotechnology company focused on an active immunotherapy technology platform (Kinoids) with applications in autoimmune and/or inflammatory diseases. On the basis of the company's proprietary technology for inducing a polyclonal immune response (covered by six patent families that run until at least 2023) Neovacs is focusing its development efforts on two active immunotherapies: TNF-Kinoid is being developed for the treatment of TNF-mediated autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease, whereas IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid is being developed for the indication of lupus. Neovacs is also conducting preclinical works on IFN $\alpha$ -Kinoid in certain chronic viral infections, VEGF-Kinoid in Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and solid tumors, and IL-4-Kinoid for the treatment of allergies. The goal of the Kinoid approach is to enable patients to have access to safe treatments with efficacy that is sustained in these life-long diseases.

**For more information on Neovacs, visit [www.neovacs.fr](http://www.neovacs.fr)**

**Contacts****NEOVACS**

Nathalie Trépo  
+33 (0)1 53 10 93 00  
[ntrepo@neovacs.com](mailto:ntrepo@neovacs.com)

**Press – Publicis**

Stéphanie Tabouis  
+33 (0)1 44 82 46 35  
[stephanie.tabouis@consultants.publicis.fr](mailto:stephanie.tabouis@consultants.publicis.fr)

**Investors - NewCap**

Valentine Brouchet/Pierre Laurent  
+ 33 (0) 1 44 71 94 93  
[neovacs@newcap.fr](mailto:neovacs@newcap.fr)