

Lokon Pharma AB signs an agreement with Biovian for GMP contract manufacturing of their proprietary oncolytic Adenovirus vector, LOAd703.

Lokon Pharma AB, a company developing next-generation cancer therapeutics, has selected Biovian Oy as a CDMO partner for GMP manufacturing of LOAd703 for a pivotal randomized study. The uniquely engineered LOAd703 oncolytic virus is currently being evaluated in the treatment of pancreatic, ovarian, colorectal, and biliary cancer as well as malignant melanoma.

The agreement covers the development and manufacturing of the viral vector LOAd703 at Biovian's facility in Turku, Finland. Aseptic filling, stability studies, and release for clinical use are also covered under the service agreement. The mutual intent is to continue the partnership during the possible commercial stage.

LOAd703 is Lokon Pharma's first cancer therapeutic that is being evaluated in clinical trials for the treatment of pancreatic cancer, as well as of ovarian cancer, colorectal cancer, biliary cancer and melanoma. It is based on Lokon Pharma's proprietary LOAd technology, which is used in a family of armed oncolytic viruses that can activate the body's immune system to identify, seek out and destroy cancer cells. The immunostimulatory gene therapy for cancer with LOAd703 utilizes adenovirus (adenovirus serotype 5/35) that is genetically engineered to express immunostimulatory genes in malignant tumors and tumor stroma. Therefore, the therapy holds potential for treating cancer types for which there are no targeted, or only limited, treatment options. The LOAd703 therapy is intended for use in combination with other cancer therapeutics, including chemotherapy and checkpoint blockade antibody therapy.

Angelica Loskog, Ph.D. CEO, Board of Directors of Lokon Pharma

We are very pleased that we have found an experienced CDMO partner for the development and manufacturing of our LOAd703 viral vector when proceeding into more advanced clinical trials. There is a lack of effective treatment for pancreatic cancer.

Immunostimulatory gene therapy holds the potential to provide better treatment to those patients. Finding a CDMO partner that understands our needs and can support us with both clinical and commercial manufacturing is an important step in reaching our goals.

Knut Ringbom, Dr. CEO of Biovian:

We are delighted that Lokon Pharma has selected us as a partner for GMP manufacturing of their novel molecule with a great potential to help cancer patients worldwide. Biovian has been developing and manufacturing viral vector processes since 2004, and we are happy to provide our expertise in Adenovirus vectors for the manufacturing of LOAd703. By having One-Stop-Shop services and a commercial license for manufacturing of gene therapy products we can serve Lokon Pharma when they take their valuable molecule through the clinical phases and onto the market.

About Lokon Pharma

Lokon Pharma AB is a Swedish biotech company developing the LOAd platform of oncolytic adenoviruses that are genetically engineered to express immunostimulatory genes in malignant tumors and tumor stroma. LOAd703 (delolimogene mupadenorepvec) is the first clinical candidate from the platform expressing TMZ-CD40L and 4-1BBL, two potent stimulators of dendritic cells as well as of T and NK cells, which play key roles in the induction of immune response against cancer cells and supporting stroma, as shown in the Figure. Currently there are three ongoing clinical trials, in which LOAd703 is evaluated in patients with advanced pancreatic, biliary, colorectal or ovarian cancer, or with malignant melanoma. Additional information is available at <http://lokonpharma.com/>

About Biovian

Biovian is a Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization, CDMO, that provides premium services to biotech companies developing innovative gene therapies or biopharmaceuticals. The goal of the company is to turn ideas into products by taking client projects from the laboratory bench to the clinic. Biovian offers its clients One-Stop-Shop GMP CDMO services, with modularity available from gene to finished vial. Biovian is especially focusing on Viral Vector production, on microbial production of recombinant proteins and on GMP plasmid DNA. Guided by its Nordic ethos, Biovian has established a reputation for delivering high-quality work on time and within budget to a global client base. Additional information is available at <https://biovian.com/>