



Provepharm and Dr Franz Köhler Chemie partner to provide “Methylthioninium chloride Proveblue solution for injection” to Germany

Proveblue[®] is the methylthioninium chloride or Methylene Blue active substance patented by Provepharm, compliant with current European Pharmacopeia standards

Marseille, France and Bensheim, Germany, June 16, 2014 – Provepharm, a French company specialized in the development of pharmaceutical applications, and Dr Franz Kohler Chemie (DFKC), a German leader in the manufacture and supply of organ preservation solutions and antidote pharmaceuticals, today announce that they have entered into a partnership to launch Provepharm’s drug product Methylthioninium chloride Proveblue 5mg/ml solution for injection (the Product) in Germany, for the acute symptomatic treatment of medicinal and chemical products-induced methaemoglobinaemia.

Under the agreement, DFKC is responsible for all commercial activities relating to the Product in Germany.

The Provepharm Proveblue(R) Methylene Blue active substance is the first Methylene Blue grade to meet European Pharmacopeia standards. It has enhanced purity in comparison to previous methylthioninium chlorides, which are generally of USP (United States Pharmacopeia) grade. The Product made of that substance gained approval by the European Medicines Agency in May 2011. It represents an improvement in quality compared to other methylthioninium chloride injectable drug products.

Additional benefits of the Product include an indication for chemical products-induced methaemoglobinaemia, as well as acute symptomatic treatment of medicinal products-induced methaemoglobinaemia and the indication to treat children and adolescents (aged 0-17 years old) as well as adults.

Methaemoglobinaemia is a life-threatening blood disorder characterized by an abnormal amount of methaemoglobin in the blood, leading to an inability to effectively release oxygen to body tissue. The disorder can be inherited or acquired after exposure to certain chemicals or drugs; for example anaesthetics, certain antibiotics and nitrites.

“We are pleased to be collaborating with DFKC which has such a good understanding of the antidotes market in Germany and we appreciate Dr G. Kohler’s decision to make the medicinal product available to German users and patients,” says Michel Feraud, CEO and founder of Provepharm.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with Provepharm with whom we share similar values and goals. The launch of the medicinal product in Germany contributes to our company's strategy to launch products responding to medical needs," says Dr Gernot Kohler, CEO of DFKC.

About Provepharm

Provepharm is a subsidiary of the Provence Technologies group that is specialized in the development and commercialization of pharmaceutical drug products derived from active substances synthesized and patented by its parent company.

Provepharm's expertise is assured by a management team with extensive experience in the international pharmaceutical industry.

Anticipating the pharmaceutical industry's needs, Provepharm started by adopting a strategy of repositioning and rehabilitating known compounds in new indications. This development strategy was designed to cater for the growing demand for active substances that comply with current quality demands.

The company is based in Marseille, France and employs 15 people. Provepharm was granted the Ernst and Young 'Entrepreneurship of the Year' prize at regional level in 2011 and the 'Deloitte Fast 50' Biotech and Healthcare National Award in 2013.

For further information, go to <http://www.provepharm.com>

About Dr Franz Kohler Chemie

Dr Franz Kohler Chemie GmbH is a research-based innovative pharmaceutical company specializing in organ-protective solutions, vascular protection solutions, pharmaceuticals, X-ray contrast agents and antidotes which are manufactured in two sites in Alsbach and Bensheim, Hesse, Germany.

The company was founded in 1959 by Dr Franz Josef Kohler, the inventor of aspartate therapy and organ-preservation and -transportation solutions. In his honour, the German Society for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery grants annually the 'Franz-J.-Kohler-Prize' for outstanding achievements in the organ protection field and especially for the heart.

Since 1984, his son Dr Gernot Kohler has expanded the business as a modern middle-sized pharmaceutical company in other therapeutic domains and internationally through distribution.

"We are at your Service" is the Company motto illustrating its policy to develop new therapeutic approaches in close contact with the medical profession and to design effective and demand-driven products that contribute to progress in science and medicine in the interest of users and patients.

For further information, go to <http://www.koehler-chemie.de>

Media Contacts

Andrew Lloyd & Associates

US and UK: Sarah Morgan | sarah@ala.com

Tel : +44 1273 675 100

France : Celine Gonzalez | celine@ala.com

Tel : +33 1 56 54 07 00

Contact Provepharm

Christian Neumann
Director, Business Development & Licensing
christian.neumann@provepharm.com
Tel : +33 6 20 68 54 23

Contact Dr Franz Köhler Chemie

Dr. Frank Helas
Information Officer
f.helas@koehler-chemie.de
Tel : +49 6251 1083373