

October 27th, 2015

Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd.

Co-development and License Agreement on NIP-022, a Novel Platelet Increasing Agent

Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan, President: Kojiro Kinoshita, “Nissan”) and Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan, President: Takashige Negishi, “Yakult”) are pleased to announce that both companies have entered into a co-development and license agreement on NIP-022, a novel platelet increasing agent discovered by Nissan.

Under this agreement, Yakult is granted the exclusive rights to develop and commercialize NIP-022 in Japan and Nissan will receive upfront and milestone payments based on the achievement of certain milestones including development milestone as well as royalties on sales of the product in return for the license. Nissan and Yakult will jointly develop NIP-022; Nissan will manufacture and supply the active pharmaceutical ingredient to Yakult. Yakult will start preparation for clinical trials.

About NIP-022

NIP-022 is an orally active small molecule compound discovered by Nissan, which increases platelet count by activating thrombopoietin receptor to accelerate platelet production. NIP-022 demonstrated good safety and tolerability as well as a potent platelet increasing effect in phase 1 clinical trials in healthy volunteers (Blood (ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts), Nov 2011; 118: 4827, 4828). NIP-022 also displayed good safety and tolerability in a clinical trial in cancer patients with chemotherapy induced thrombocytopenia where higher doses were tested than in healthy volunteers. Both companies expect that NIP-022 will be developed as a new drug useful for the treatment of thrombocytopenia associated with, for example, cancer chemotherapies.