
Notice of Capital and Business Alliance between Oji Holdings and ReqMed

Oji Holdings Corporation (head office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; president: Masatoshi Kaku; hereinafter “Oji Holdings”) announces that, at a meeting held today (November 27, 2020), its Board of Directors resolved to form a business alliance (hereinafter, the “Alliance”) with ReqMed Company, Ltd. (head office: Machida, Tokyo; president: Tadashi Matsumoto; hereinafter “ReqMed”) consisting of joint development with ReqMed and investment in new shares issued by ReqMed through third party allotment.

Brief Description of the Alliance

(1) Previous relationship between Oji Holdings and ReqMed

Oji Holdings established Oji Pharma Co., Ltd. (head office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; president: Masaru Yokoyama; hereinafter “Oji Pharma”) in April 1, 2020 for the purpose of commercializing sulfated hemicellulose, derived from a wood component, for use as a medicinal product. Collaborative R&D activities with universities and pharmaceutical companies led to new findings on the inhibition of blood coagulation, anti-inflammatory effects, moisture retention and other properties of sulfated hemicellulose. Based on these findings, Oji Pharma has continued R&D activities, narrowing the target to disease areas where these characteristics may be fully utilized.

ReqMed (established on May 12, 1998) develops, manufactures and sells medicinal products in disease areas where there is a high level of unmet medical needs such as medicinal products for rare diseases. For the development of medicinal products using pentosan polysulfate (PPS) which is the active ingredient of medicinal products derived from wood components, ReqMed has been supplied with the active pharmaceutical ingredients by bene pharmaChem GmbH & Co. KG (head office: Germany) in order to conduct clinical development for indications such as mucopolysaccharidosis, osteoarthritis and HTLV-1 associated myelopathy (HAM).

(2) Purpose of the Alliance

Oji Holdings and ReqMed have repeatedly discussed the possibility of an alliance given that the sulfated hemicellulose developed by Oji Pharma and the PPS developed by ReqMed are both substances derived from wood components. As a result of these discussions, both sides agreed to enter into this Alliance based on the realization that the formation of a partnership between Oji Pharma and ReqMed would rationalize the medicinal product research and development activities of the two companies.

(3) Outlook

Oji Holdings plans to make payment for the new shares to be issued by way of third-party allotment on December 25, 2020. Through this alliance, Oji Holdings and ReqMed will build a relationship to maximize the value of both their products through mutual cooperation over the research and development of medicinal products derived from wood components.

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