

DAWN OF THE DRUG CELL: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR A NEW CELL THERAPY SUPPLY CHAIN GPI FRANCE AT THE HELM OF DIGITAL PROCESSES

Trento, 20 November 2024

The European Commission has approved the **IPCEI Med4Cure** (Important Projects of Common European Interest), a programme to stimulate research and development in the life sciences, with the aim of making innovative therapies accessible and **establishing an independent European biopharmaceutical industrial chain** to tackle health emergencies.

This is the background to **The Drug Cell**, a French Joint Venture bringing together Carroucell, CECS/I-Stem (Centre for Stem Cell Studies), CHU (University Hospital) of Montpellier, CHU of Rennes, EFS (French Blood Establishment), EVERZom, GPI France (a subsidiary of the GPI Group), MGA Technologies and the University of Montpellier. The aim of the project is to develop and automate the production of innovative biopharmaceuticals based on induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), adult cells reprogrammed to become **stem cells**. The objective is to introduce new treatments to the market for diseases with highly complex medical conditions such as breast cancer, hip osteoarthritis, liver failure, aplasia, severe forms of vitiligo, rheumatoid arthritis, and scleroderma.

The Drug Cell will be established by the end of 2024 and operational from May 2025, with the first clinical trials taking place in 2030 and an estimated time to market of 2034. **GPI France**, within this soon-to-be-established new Joint Venture, which brings together outstanding technological and biotechnological expertise from French companies, startups, universities, and research centers, will undertake the presidency. From a technological standpoint, it will be responsible for the development of advanced in silico models based on artificial intelligence, to automate the production of cell therapies and make treatments for rare diseases accessible at sustainable costs.

It is a long-term project with high social impact, establishing the GPI Group as a pioneer in biomedicine. Indeed, the Joint Venture aims to develop advanced solutions for in silico clinical trials, leveraging digital models (Digital Twins) that will allow preliminary results to be obtained more quickly, without having to wait for the completion of the entire project.

Sergio Manzana, future Chairman of The Drug Cell, emphasises: “We are particularly proud to announce our involvement in this one-of-a-kind project. For GPI, it represents a qualitative leap in our ability to address the healthcare challenges of the future. The Joint Venture will serve as a vehicle for developing a fully integrated industrial supply chain at the European level, from basic research through to the production of advanced therapies, with the aim of significantly improving people’s quality of life. We strive to become a catalyst for medical and technological advancement not only in Europe, but worldwide.”

GPI GROUP

Gpi's mission is to make the healthcare systems sustainable through their digitisation, so that everyone can receive high-quality care.

Sustainability and social impact are the guiding principles and play a crucial role in the strategic and investment assessments of the Group, aware that the solutions and services provided to the community have an impact on the quality of life of individuals.

For 35 years, driven by a patient-centric vision, Gpi has been working to support healthcare systems by providing the skills and innovative tools necessary to improve prevention and treatment processes. This is achieved through the strategic use of advanced software, technologies, and cutting-edge services.

The Group's strategy is designed to meet the evolving requirements of the constantly changing healthcare sector and to facilitate entry into international markets.

The unwavering commitment of its 7,600 employees and a customer base of more than 9,000 across 70 countries, yielded €433 million in revenue, an EBITDA of €80 million in 2023.

Gpi S.p.A. is listed on the Euronext Tech Leaders segment of Borsa Italiana, the Italian stock exchange.

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This press release is also available at www.gpigroup.com and www.1info.it

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