

**ONO PHARMACEUTICAL Co., LTD.**

Corporate Communications  
Phone: 06 6263 5670  
Fax: 06 6263 2950

**Lead Compounds Were Successfully Identified in Ion Channel Drug Discovery  
Collaboration with Evotec**

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. [Osaka, Japan](Ono) and Evotec AG [Hamburg, Germany] (Evotec) today announced the identification of lead compounds in ion channel drug discovery collaboration with Evotec.

The collaboration was initiated in October 2009 to generate small molecules targeting an ion channel implicated in cardiovascular, CNS and urological diseases in one and a half years of collaboration period. Since this collaboration has successfully identified multiple lead compounds meeting various criteria in activity, selectivity and oral bioavailability characteristics, Ono paid a milestone to Evotec. In addition, Ono and Evotec agreed to extend the research collaboration until April 2012 with the goal to further optimize the lead compounds and generate novel drug candidates. Ono has a worldwide right to develop and commercialize compounds generated in this collaboration.

Dr Mario Polywka, Chief Operating Officer of Evotec, commented: "We are delighted to deliver high value molecules to our partner Ono and to expand our collaboration. We enjoy a very successful and close relationship. This achievement clearly demonstrates the value we bring to our alliance partners in the area of drug discovery. We look forward to continuing working closely with our colleagues at Ono."

"We are very pleased to achieve the research milestone and progress into lead optimization with a project. We highly appreciate a wide range of drug discovery technologies at Evotec and the experiences of their scientists. We are confident that multiple preclinical candidates will be identified in near future" said Kazuhito Kawabata, Ph.D., Managing Director, Research Headquarters at Ono.

**ABOUT EVOTEC AG**

Evotec is a drug discovery alliance and development partnership company focused on rapidly progressing innovative product approaches with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. We operate worldwide providing the highest quality stand-alone and integrated drug discovery solutions, covering all activities from target-to-clinic. The Company has established a unique position by assembling top-class scientific experts and integrating state-of-the-art technologies as well as substantial experience and expertise in key therapeutic areas including neuroscience, pain, metabolic diseases as well as oncology and inflammation. For additional information please go to [www.evotec.com](http://www.evotec.com).

**ABOUT ION CHANNEL**

Ion channel is one of the membrane-bound proteins, which allows ions such as sodium and calcium ions to pass through the membrane and regulates cellular functions by maintaining cellular homeostasis, activating cells and other ways. Ion channel is involved in many diseases including cardiovascular, CNS, urology, metabolic and inflammation.

**ABOUT LEAD COMPOUND**

Lead compound is a chemical compound that serves as a starting point for drug candidates. In a lead optimization stage, many derivatives are synthesized by modifying chemical structure of a lead compound to improve its basic drug characteristics such as activity, toxicity and pharmacokinetic parameters and novel drug candidates will be identified.