

Cato Research and JSW-Research Sign Strategic CRO Collaboration Agreement

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. and GRAZ, AUSTRIA, March 23 /PRNewswire/ - Cato Research Ltd., a global contract research organization (CRO) providing a full-range of drug development services and regulatory expertise for clients in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries, and JSW- Research Forschungslabor GmbH, an Austrian CRO specializing in research and development of novel therapeutics for central nervous system (CNS) disorders, announced today a strategic business development collaboration focused on expansion of the companies' operations throughout the European Union and Eastern Europe. Separately, Cato BioVentures, the venture capital affiliate of Cato Research, purchased an undisclosed equity interest in JSW-Research. The new strategic arrangement follows a successful long-term relationship between Cato and JSW involving numerous large-scale clinical trial programs in the European Union. Under the agreement, Cato and JSW will share their proprietary CRO know-how, leverage their business development capabilities, and extend the reach of their preclinical and clinical development capabilities and regulatory expertise to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies seeking to introduce new medicines in the U.S., Canada, the European Union, Eastern Europe, Israel, and South Africa. "Our collaboration with JSW is another critical component in our global strategic plan. Our goal is to offer a comprehensive portfolio of essential CRO services to our sponsors worldwide," said Allen Cato, M.D., Ph.D., cofounder and Chief Executive Officer of Cato Research. "By partnering with JSW-Research, we have now extended our reach into two more important markets and strengthened our capabilities in the ever-growing CNS drug development arena. Likewise, JSW will be able to leverage our strong presence in the U.S., Canada, Israel, and South Africa across multiple therapeutic areas." "This important agreement strengthens our long-term relationship with Cato Research and expands our capabilities, particularly in the U.S.," said Manfred Windisch, Ph.D., founder of JSW-Research. "Our core strengths include pharmacology services in the field of neurology and the fast and efficient start-up and management of clinical trials in the European Union. Now, by working closely with Cato Research, we can better leverage our strengths globally and fully execute our strategic plan."

About Cato Research

Founded in 1988 by Dr. Allen Cato and Lynda Sutton and headquartered near Research Triangle Park, NC, Cato Research is a full-service contract research organization providing strategic and tactical support for clients in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries. Services range from design and management of preclinical and clinical studies to submission of regulatory documents required for marketing approval. With a staff of over 300 and offices located in the United States, Canada, Germany, Latvia, Israel, and South Africa, the Cato Research team consistently demonstrates an unsurpassed level of responsiveness, flexibility, attention to detail, and passion in bringing sponsors' products to market rapidly and cost effectively.

For more information, visit the company's web site at www.cato.com.

About JSW-Research

Headquartered in Graz, Austria, JSW-Research has offices in Zagreb, Croatia, Szeged, Hungary, and Sada, Spain and a staff of 45 professionals specializing in CNS drug development, particularly neurodegenerative disorders. JSW-Research also offers services in other areas of pharmacology and management of Phase 1 through Phase 4 clinical trials. JSW-Research uses modern molecular biology techniques and has also designed and developed a variety of disease relevant cell and animal models for characterizing drug effects. Interlacing modular systems facilitate step-by-step analysis of candidate substances from basic in vitro to complex in vivo assays, complemented by a full range of histological, biochemical and behavioral evaluation methods. This combination of classical pharmacology and modern molecular biology together with a first rate quality assurance system makes JSW-Research an ideal partner in contemporary drug development. JSW-Research also offers clinical trial monitoring, management, and audit services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in the European Union and Eastern Europe.

For more information, please contact:

Allen Cato, MD, PhD
Chief Executive Officer of Cato Research Ltd.
Phone: +1-919-361-2286
Fax: +1-919-361-2290
info@cato.com

Dr. Manfred Windisch
SW-Research Forschungslabor GmbH
Phone: +43-316-76 51 14-11
Fax: +43-316-76 51 14-4
office@jswresearch.com/