



Curetis' Subsidiary Ares Genetics Initiates Development of AI-Powered Infectious Disease Test

- ***ARESupa test aims at broad detection of microbial infections employing next-generation sequencing and artificial intelligence***
- ***Curetis explores venture capital (VC) funding for Ares Genetics while assessing all strategic and tactical financing options for growth of Unyvero core business***

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Holzgerlingen, Germany, and Vienna, Austria, September 04, 2018, 01:00 am EST - Curetis N.V. (the "Company" and, together with its subsidiaries, "Curetis"), a developer of next-level molecular diagnostic solutions, today announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Ares Genetics GmbH ("Ares Genetics") has initiated the development of its *ARESupa* Universal Pathogenome Assay. The assay for the diagnosis of microbial infections and antimicrobial drug response is based on the Company's proprietary ARES Technology Platform and genetic antimicrobial resistance database *AREScdb*.

ARESupa is intended to cover nearly any pathogen in a broad array of sample types and to predict antimicrobial drug response to a wide variety of treatment options using a single, uniform laboratory workflow. While planning to launch the test as a laboratory-developed test first, Ares Genetics ultimately aims to seek regulatory approval as an *in vitro diagnostic* ("IVD") test, which it will eventually seek to commercialize. For in-house test development and initial commercialization of a laboratory-developed test in Europe, Ares Genetics is in the process of establishing a dedicated R&D and diagnostic service lab at the Vienna BioCenter Campus in Vienna, Austria. Supported by the Austrian Economic Chambers ("WKO") as a winner of the Austrian "*GoSiliconValley*" competition earlier this year, Ares Genetics is further exploring fast-track options to launch *ARESupa* as a laboratory-developed test in the U.S., once development of a first-generation *ARESupa* has been completed.

Microbial Infections and antibiotic resistance have become a major healthcare challenge, with antimicrobial resistance estimated to have caused 700,000 deaths globally in 2016, a number that is projected to dramatically increase to 10 million deaths annually by 2050 if no countermeasures are taken (Ref. 1). Ares Genetics seeks to address this challenge with a disruptive approach using high-resolution Next Generation Sequencing ("NGS") technology in combination with a proprietary, artificial intelligence ("AI") curated genetic pathogen reference database, *AREScdb*, to interpret results. Pursuing a partnership-oriented approach, Ares Genetics and Curetis have entered into an agreement with MGI, a BGI Group Company, located in Shenzhen, China, to develop an integrated and fully automated solution for analyzing diverse human samples for microbial infections using NGS. Discussions with other NGS technology providers to utilize their platforms for the deployment of *ARESupa* are ongoing.

"We are excited to announce the development program for our *ARESupa* Universal Pathogenome Assay for broadly detecting microbial infections and antibiotic resistances," said Dr. Andreas Posch, Managing Director of Ares Genetics. "With this assay, we are not only building on *AREScdb*, which we believe is the world's most comprehensive database on the

genetics of antibiotic resistance, but also leverage our extensive IP portfolio covering antibiotic resistance biomarkers, sample preparation technologies, bioinformatics and artificial intelligence methods. We are therefore convinced that Ares Genetics is well positioned to advance the development of next-generation rapid molecular testing for microbial infections and drug response with the goal to improve patient outcomes and counteract rapidly spreading antibiotic resistance.”

“Founded in 2017, Ares Genetics provides data intelligence for the design and continuous optimization of test panels and interpretation of test results for Curetis’ core business of rapid multiplex PCR testing based on the Unyvero Platform,” said Dr. Achim Plum, also Managing Director of Ares Genetics GmbH and CBO of Curetis N.V. “With *ARESupa*, we intend to take molecular testing for microbial infections to the next level, leveraging the anticipated adoption of NGS technology in clinical diagnostics. With the support of the WKO we are now exploring how we can implement this solution commercially in the U.S. once development of a first-generation *ARESupa* has been completed.”

With initial seed funding of Ares Genetics provided by Curetis and support from the WKO, Ares Genetics is currently identifying U.S. strategic partners and exploring options for accessing U.S. venture capital funding to accelerate the development of *ARESupa* and its commercial deployment in the U.S. market.

This initiative is part of Curetis’ ongoing assessment of strategic and tactical financing options to secure appropriate funding and cash for continued operations for at least the next 12 months, a strategy that was previously communicated in the publication of the FY 2017 results on April 30, 2018. While no firm decisions have been taken, the Company is considering making use of the shareholder resolutions authorizing the management board to raise additional capital from institutional investors through the non-preemptive issuance of shares. These resolutions were approved at the AGM on June 21, 2018 for up to 50% of issued capital for strategic financing(s).

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Reference

- (1) The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance. 2016. Tackling Drug-Resistant Infections Globally: Final Report and Recommendations. The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, chaired by Jim O’Neill, Wellcome Trust & HM Government. Report commissioned by the UK Prime Minister. May 2016

About Curetis and Ares Genetics

Curetis N.V.’s (Euronext: CURE) goal is to become a leading provider of innovative solutions for molecular microbiology diagnostics designed to address the global challenge of detecting severe infectious diseases and identifying antibiotic resistances in hospitalized patients.

Curetis’ Unyvero System is a versatile, fast and highly automated molecular diagnostic platform for easy-to-use, cartridge-based solutions for the comprehensive and rapid detection of pathogens and antimicrobial resistance markers in a range of severe infectious disease indications. Results are available within hours, a process that can take days or even weeks if performed with standard diagnostic procedures, thereby facilitating improved patient outcomes, stringent antibiotic stewardship and health-economic benefits. Unyvero in vitro diagnostic (IVD) products are marketed in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the U.S.

Curetis’ wholly owned subsidiary Ares Genetics GmbH is developing next-generation solutions for infectious disease diagnostics and therapeutics. The *ARES* Technology Platform combines

what the Company believes to be the most comprehensive database worldwide on the genetics of antimicrobial resistances, ARESdb, with advanced bioinformatics and artificial intelligence.

For further information, please visit www.curetis.com and www.ares-genetics.com.

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