

Intas Bio, Apotex of Canada in pact To Co-Develop Neukine For US & Canadian Markets

Ahmedabad: Intas Biopharmaceuticals Limited (IBPL) has inked a business agreement with Canada-based Apotex Inc for co-development and supply of its Filgrastim drug brand—Neukine—in US and Canada.

With this, IBPL and Apotex are eyeing a significant share of the total G-CSF (granulocyte colony-stimulating factor) market in North America and Europe, that is currently estimated to be around \$1.4 billion annually. According to a company communiqué, European pharmaceutical major Kwizda Pharma, which is working with IBPL to develop the G-CSF for the European market, has transferred all its rights in IBPL's G-CSF to Apotex.

Commenting on the development, IBPL executive director Mani Iyer said, "This business deal brings together two companies having expertise in niche areas of operations. IBPL and Apotex have complementary strengths, which will help



in launching the first GCSF generic in North America."

Though the legislation on biosimilar product registration is yet to be put into place in North America, Iyer said that the tie-up had opened up the doors to IBPL and Apotex exploring prospective business opportunities for more biosimilar products in coming years.

Apotex executive vice-president (research and development), Jeremy B Desai, said, "This agreement will strengthen our development in Europe and offer support for entering this important market with future biosimilar products currently in the Apotex development pipeline." TNN