

## **Transgene's therapeutic AIDS Vaccine achieves critical milestone**

January 25th, 2010

Transgene Biotek Ltd (TBL) announced today that a therapeutic AIDS vaccine developed by its scientists has crossed a significant milestone in demonstrating its efficacy. The drug has clearly proven its effectiveness by selectively killing more than 75% of the gp120 specific B cells within 48 hours of administration.

The technology behind the vaccine focuses on the selective killing of a subset of B cells, targeting only those bearing antibodies specific against the gp120 antigen of the HIV virus. This vaccine, in effect, not only prevents the progression of AIDS in HIV infected persons, but almost reverses the process of AIDS by its ability to enable reactivation of the body's natural immunity, which otherwise gets progressively depleted and often results in death.

Another significant feature of this drug is its safety for the rest of the immune system, unlike virtually all other HIV/AIDS drugs, demonstrating minimal or no killing of other cells of the immune system.

The AIDS vaccine is the first product to come out of a novel platform that Transgene has built for drugs against auto-immune diseases. Other drugs currently under development on this platform target Rheumatoid Arthritis and Multiple Sclerosis, and the platform can be extended against other autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's Disease etc.

With solid results backing the platform and specifically the therapeutic AIDS vaccine technology, the management is advancing this vaccine for further studies following the receipt of regulatory approvals.

Now that its Orlistat technology has been licensed to Dr Reddy's, Transgene is moving ahead rapidly with several other technologies that have been under development for a while, and the AIDS vaccine is the first of a few projects that will achieve significant milestones within the next few months.