



**Silence Therapeutics receives approval to initiate Phase I clinical trials on
Atu027 for treatment of patients with advanced solid tumours**

London – June 3, 2009 – Silence Therapeutics plc (AIM: SLN) (“Silence” or “the Company”), the leading European biopharmaceutical company focused on RNA interference (RNAi), announces that its Clinical Trial Application (CTA) for Atu027, its lead drug candidate, has been cleared by the German regulator Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte (BfArM).

The planned trial will be a prospective, open-label, single-centre, dose-finding Phase I study with Atu027 in patients with advanced solid (malignant) tumours involving single as well as repeated intravenous administration.

The trial will be conducted at the clinical study centre of the Cancer Hospital SanaFontis in Freiburg, Germany and will address safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics. Silence has already received approval from the Ethics Committee and the trial, which is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete, will commence immediately following successful patient enrolment.

Atu027 specifically targets PKN3, a molecule involved in cancer growth and metastasis formation. Atu027 is Silence’s most advanced clinical candidate for a systemically delivered short interfering RNA (siRNA) using the Company’s proprietary AtuPLEX delivery technology. The compound is a potential new therapeutic option for patients with advanced solid tumours that do not adequately respond to standard therapy.

Iain Ross, chairman and chief executive of Silence Therapeutics, said:

“We welcome the decision by the German regulator to allow Silence to take Atu027 forward into Phase I clinical testing. This marks a further step in the development of Silence’s science towards commercialisation and underscores the company’s strength in the field of RNAi.”

Klaus Giese, Chief Scientific Officer of Silence Therapeutics, added:

“We are very excited at the prospect of commencing Phase I testing of Aut027 in subjects with advanced solid tumours. We believe that our AtuPLEX delivery system can be applied for the delivery of different siRNAs for several targets in indications that are connected with angiogenesis, which is key to tumour growth and metastasis.”

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Notes to editors

About Atu027

Atu027 is Silence's lead internal product. It specifically targets PKN3, a molecule involved in cancer growth and metastasis formation. Silence's liposomal complex (siRNA-lipoplex) targets the vascular endothelial cell compartment delivering PKN3-siRNA into the cytoplasm of endothelial cells, where it acts catalytically on PKN3 mRNA via the gene silencing mechanism.

Silence submitted the Clinical Trial Application for Atu027 in December 2008 having successfully completed single and repeat dose toxicology and geno-toxicology studies, as well as a 28-day toxicology study using multiple dosing regimens.

About the trial

The trial will be conducted at the clinical study centre of the Cancer Hospital SanaFontis in Freiburg, Germany. The Cancer Hospital SanaFontis is an international centre for holistic cancer therapy and clinical cancer research. Both out- and in-patients of the hospital have the option to participate in studies that investigate innovative therapies, provided the patients can be expected to benefit from the treatment and there are no further therapy options open to them.

The trial will be an open-label, single-centre, dose-finding Phase I study with Atu027 in subjects with advanced solid tumours involving single as well as repeated intravenous administration. An open-label trial is a trial in which both the researchers and participants know which treatment is being administered.

The trial will address safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics. Pharmacokinetics is the study of the way the body interacts with a particular drug, including the mechanisms of absorption and distribution, the rate at which a drug action begins and the duration of the effect, the chemical changes of the substance in the body and the effects and routes of excretion of the metabolites of the drug.

About Silence Therapeutics plc (www.silence-therapeutics.com)

Silence Therapeutics plc (AIM: SLN) is a leading European RNAi-focused biotechnology company.

RNA interference (RNAi), is a Nobel Prize winning technology and one of the most exciting areas of drug discovery today. It represents a completely new approach to selectively 'silence' or inactivate disease relevant genes and as such it has the potential to create a new

class of therapeutic products. RNAi could therefore offer a therapeutic approach to a broad range of diseases (cancer, infectious diseases, inherited diseases), many of which have been regarded as incurable and are not addressed by current therapeutics, therefore providing a large market opportunity.

Silence Therapeutics has developed a platform of novel short interfering RNA ('siRNA') molecules, AtuRNAi, which provide a number of advantages over conventional siRNA molecules, including increased stability against nuclease degradation. In addition, the Company has developed a proprietary systemic delivery system, AtuPLEX. This system enables the functional delivery of siRNA molecules to targeted diseased tissues and cells, while increasing their bioavailability and intracellular uptake.

Following the granting of its patents in Europe, the USA and Australia, Silence Therapeutics is one of only two companies worldwide with a proprietary position on composition of matter for siRNA therapeutics.

In March 2008 Silence Therapeutics announced a collaboration with AstraZeneca (LSE: AZN) focused on the development of a range of novel delivery approaches for siRNA molecules. Under the terms of the agreement both Silence Therapeutics and AstraZeneca will be allowed to commercialize the truly novel delivery systems that the two partners develop together.

Silence Therapeutics has granted a licence to AstraZeneca to develop novel AtuRNAi therapeutics against five specific targets. This collaboration was the first industry validation of the potential application of Silence Therapeutics' proprietary AtuRNAi molecules and solidified the Company's leadership position in field of RNAi therapeutics.

The Company's AtuRNAi technology also has been sublicensed to Pfizer via Quark's license to them of the compound RTP-801i-14 for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and a number of other indications. This compound entered a phase II clinical study in July 2008. Silence Therapeutics also has licensed to Quark rights to the AtuRNAi structure for Quark's proprietary compound, AKIi-5, which is in a Phase I human clinical study for treatment of acute kidney injury.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release includes forward-looking statements that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors. These risks and uncertainties could cause actual results to differ materially from those referred to in the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on information currently available to Silence Therapeutics and Silence Therapeutics assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

Silence Therapeutics is based in London, UK, and Berlin, Germany, and is listed on AIM.

