



## **Intercell's partner Merck&Co., Inc., starts Phase I clinical trial for *Staphylococcus aureus* vaccine based on Intercell's antigen**

**Vienna (Austria), December 15, 2005** - Intercell AG (VSE, "ICLL") today announced the start of a Phase I clinical trial by Merck&Co., Inc., for a vaccine against *Staphylococcus aureus* infections based on an antigen discovered by Intercell's proprietary bacterial Antigen Identification Program.

*Staphylococcus aureus*, the previously undisclosed target for this vaccine collaboration, is one of the major causes of hospital-acquired, often life-threatening infections. Multi-drug resistant strains make it difficult, sometimes impossible, to control the pathogen with antibiotics.

Under the 2004 agreement, Intercell applied its Antigen Identification Program (AIP®) to identify antigens directed towards *Staphylococcus aureus*. With the start of the Phase I clinical trial, Intercell receives another milestone payment of USD 1 million and is eligible to receive additional milestone payments based on project progress as well as royalties based on future net sales. Merck is responsible for the development of a potential vaccine and owns the worldwide exclusive rights to this product candidate.

"We are pleased with the progress we have made in our joint efforts to develop a *Staphylococcus aureus* vaccine," stated Gerd Zettlmeissl, CEO of Intercell. "This demonstrates once again the ability and potential of Intercell's technology in the development of novel vaccines."

### **About *Staphylococcus aureus* infections**

Hospital-associated infections are one of the major causes of death and serious illness worldwide, resulting in an annual burden of more than US\$20bn in the developed world. In the United States alone, about two million patients annually contract an infection while receiving health care in hospitals. The incidence of nosocomial infections is steadily increasing due to medical interventions and most notably due to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria circulating in hospitals. *S. aureus* is the most frequent cause of hospital-acquired infections. In addition to bloodstream infections with a mortality rate of up to 35%, infections of bone, heart and other inner organs are leading to serious health complications, death and economic burden. Today, approximately 50% of *S. aureus* strains isolated in hospitals worldwide are resistant to multiple antibiotics, rendering staphylococcal disease management increasingly difficult and challenging.

### **About Intercell**

Intercell AG is a fast growing biotechnology company focusing on the design and development of novel vaccines for prevention and treatment of diseases with substantial unaddressed medical need. The Company's unique position is based on the combination of antigens and immunizers (adjuvants) derived from its proprietary technology platforms and its in-house GMP manufacturing facilities. Intercell's technology has been endorsed by collaborative agreements with a number of global pharmaceutical companies, including sanofi pasteur, Merck&Co., Inc., SciGen Ltd. and the Statens Serum Institut. The Company has a broad development pipeline with a vaccine for Japanese Encephalitis in Phase III, a vaccine for Hepatitis C in Phase II, a partnered





Tuberculosis vaccine in Phase I and five products focused on infectious diseases in pre-clinical development. Intercell is listed on the Vienna stock exchange under the symbol "ICLL".

For more information please visit: [www.intercell.com](http://www.intercell.com)

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