

News Release

Synplogen Signs MOU with MicroBiopharm Japan for Supply of Plasmid DNA for Gene Therapy Products

KOBE, Japan, December 9, 2022 - Synplogen Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Nada-ku, Kobe; President and CEO: Kazuhiko Yamamoto; hereinafter referred to as "Synplogen"), a biotech startup spun out of Kobe University, and MicroBiopharm Japan Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Atsushi Shiota; hereinafter referred to as "MBJ") has signed a MOU to discuss a cooperative framework for GMP product supply of plasmid DNA, important raw materials in the development of manufacturing processes for gene therapy products (viral vectors) to be conducted by Synplogen.

Synplogen provides design, development, and analysis services for high-quality, cost-effective viral vectors for gene therapy (Gene Therapy Biofoundry Services), utilizing its proprietary ultra-long DNA synthesis technology. At its Kobe R&D Center, Synplogen can offer a wide range of services to meet customer needs, including DNA synthesis, plasmid DNA mass preparation, viral vector production, process development, characterization and quality testing, and support for technology transfer to GMP-compliant manufacturing facilities.

MBJ was spun off from the Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals business unit of Mercian Corporation in 2011, and has been developing services using microbial fermentation technology. In its primary business, CDMO business, MBJ is leveraging its core technologies of microbial fermentation and microbial conversion technologies to expand its business domain from small molecule pharmaceuticals to the field of biopharmaceuticals such as proteins and plasmid DNA. In particular, as part of its mid- to long-term growth strategy, MBJ has a policy to engage in the production of plasmid DNA used in the manufacture of gene therapy products, and is currently installing GMP manufacturing facilities at its Kiyosu Plant in Aichi Prefecture, with operations scheduled to begin in December 2022.

The MOU will enable Synplogen to establish a supply chain for plasmid DNA up to GMP manufacturing, providing customers with seamless services from DNA synthesis to GMP manufacturing, which is necessary for the development of gene therapy products such as AAV vectors. We believe that we will be able to make a significant contribution to the commercialization of new gene therapy products.

About Synplogen

Synplogen Co., Ltd. is a synthetic biology startup company founded in 2017 and originated from Kobe University. Utilizing its proprietary DNA synthesis technologies "OGAB[®] method" and "Combi-OGAB[™] method", the company is capable of synthesizing ultra-long and complex DNA and constructing DNA libraries with various combinations. We also provide one-stop solutions for the design, development, and

analysis of high-quality, cost-effective viral vectors for gene therapy at our Kobe R&D Center, as a biofoundry specializing in gene therapy.

Head Office: 1-1 Rokkodai-cho Nada-ku, Kobe Japan
Established: February 2017
Representative: Kazuhiko Yamamoto, President and CEO
Capital: 2,325,68 million yen (including capital reserve)
Business: Custom DNA synthesis and biofoundry services for gene therapy
URL: <https://www.synplogen.com/>

About MicroBiopharm Japan

MicroBiopharm Japan Co., Ltd. specializes in comprehensive microbial technologies and has 80 years of experience. The company utilize microorganisms to support its partners in various stages of research, development, and commercial production.

Head Office: 1-3-1 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo Japan
Established: July 2011
Representative: Atsushi Shiota, President and CEO
Capital: 10 million yen
Business: Manufacture of drug substance, food, feed, and agrochemical products using microbial fermentation and microbial conversion
URL: <https://www.microbiopharm.com/index.html>

Contact:

Synplogen Co., Ltd.

Email: info@synplogen.com