

TARGETED THERAPEUTICS

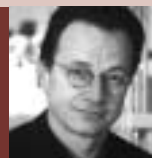
COMPANY DETAILS	
Company:	IDEA
CEO:	Prof. Dr. Gregor Cevc
www:	www.idea-ag.de
Address:	Frankfurter Ring 193a, 80807 München, Germany
Tel:	+49 89 324633 0
idea@:	idea@idea-ag.de

Most existing therapies can be improved, either through better drugs or improved drug delivery. Non-invasive, targeted drug delivery, therefore, has high commercial value as it can improve or extend the life of existing therapeutics, giving rise to new, patented and commercially attractive medical products.

IDEA AG, based in Munich, Germany, has developed a means for targeted and non-invasive drug delivery based on self-optimising carriers called Transfersomes®. Transfersomes are agent carriers prepared from pharmaceutically established ingredients suspended in water. When applied on a body surface without occlusion, the carriers widen intercellular contacts between cutaneous cells for the period of their application and then transport drugs into the skin, or beyond. "The skin's protective barrier is unaffected by the process, which makes Transfersome-based products extremely attractive from a safety

"WE'VE DEVELOPED FROM A DELIVERY COMPANY INTO A BIOTECH PLAYER."

PROF. DR. GREGOR CEVC



point of view," says Gregor Cevc, CEO of IDEA.

Protected by over 40 patents from eight patent families, IDEA's technology overcomes cutaneous barrier and local drug clearance to deliver drugs efficiently into the skin and, if desired, into underlying muscles or joints. The delivery is well tolerated by the skin, can be used to accumulate drugs below the skin, and offers a sustained drug release option.

IDEA is establishing itself as an independent pharma company with products in pain management. The company recently received a significant clinical milestone payment from its US partner, for its phase

III (EU) / IIb (US) lead product, IDEA-033.

"The positive results with IDEA-033æ, the first targeted peripheral analgesicæ, demonstrate IDEA's successful transition from a classical drug delivery company into a biotech specialty pharma player, focusing on therapeutics developed either in-house or with industry partners," says Cevc.

IDEA's dermatological product family includes two clinically tested therapeutics (IDEA-070 in phase II, a product in phase I with clinical efficacy data) and two earlier stage products. The company's in-house capabilities range from formulation, analytical, and small-scale (GMP) manufacturing work to clinical testing. ■

THE MERITS OF MICROLABORATORIES

COMPANY DETAILS	
Company:	Gyros
CEO:	Jan Würtz
www:	www.gyros.com
Address:	Uppsala Science Park SE-751 83 Uppsala, Sweden
Tel:	+46 (0)18 566 300
info@:	info@gyros.com

The potential benefits of miniaturisation have long been recognised in drug discovery, and there has been a dramatic rise in the need to maximise information from small samples and to handle complex analytical problems in high numbers. The advantages anticipated from miniaturisation have also driven the development of microfluidic technologies.

At Gyros, more than 10 years experience of working with microfluidic systems and miniaturisation in life sciences has led to the creation of a flexible technology platform and several initial product launches. The company has an extensive intellectual property rights portfolio, currently containing more than 60 patents (patent families), covering approximately 70 inventions.

"By miniaturising laboratory applications and integrating

laboratory processes, it is possible to improve lab performance and productivity," explains Jan Würtz, CEO of Gyros. "At the same time, consumption of sample and reagents can be significantly reduced. It also becomes easier to work with small volumes and to run applications at nanoliter scale."

Using a combination of centrifugal and capillary force, with precise microfabrication and a sophisticated use of surface chemistry, Gyros is able to miniaturise, integrate and run laboratory processes in application-specific microlaboratories. The ability to streamline many steps of conventional applications into single, nanoliter scale procedures, also enables more information to be extracted from a smaller sample.

Each microlaboratory – which is in the form of a compact disc – can process hundreds of samples in parallel under the control of Gyrolab Workstation. The platform concept ensures that microlaboratories and workstations can be readily adapted to new applications or that different applications can be run on the same workstation.

Each CD microlaboratory can contain hundreds of identical application-specific microstructures. As the CD spins, samples are processed in parallel in the microstructures.

Initial product offerings are focused towards the growing area of proteomics. ■