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### **GENEART is Awarded two US Patents for Successfully Tested HIV Vaccines**

- The US Patent Office has awarded GENEART two US patents titled “Genome of the HIV-1 inter-subtype (C/B') and use thereof”
- The EuroVacc Foundation has successfully tested the protected gene sequences in a Phase I trial for use as HIV vaccine
- Further clinical Phase I/II studies of the licensed gene sequences have been initiated for 2008 by the EuroVacc Foundation
- These clinical results underscore the importance of the GENEART technology for pharmaceutical research

**Regensburg, February 20, 2008** – The GENEART AG announces the award of the patents US 7,332,588 and US 7,323,557 titled “Genome of the HIV-1 inter-subtype (C/B') and use thereof” by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The above-mentioned patents protect the use of specific custom-designed HIV gene sequences for the development as therapeutics or vaccines.

Recently, the now patent-protected gene sequences have been tested as HIV vaccine candidates on 40 test persons by the EuroVacc Foundation in a phase I clinical trial. The trial has turned out to be successful. The results of this study have been published in “The Journal of Experimental Medicine” (Vol. 205, 63-77). In the trial, the prophylactic vaccination proved to be safe and well tolerated, and it triggered a strong and lasting immune response in 90 % of the vaccinated test persons in London and Lausanne. As the licensor, GENEART provided the patented gene sequences (structural design) for the tested vaccines. The synthetic genes were custom-designed by the scientists at GENEART and the University of Regensburg. These genes serve as the basis for the vaccine candidates, which are used in the so-called “prime boost” procedure as naked DNA (DNA-HIV-C), and with a genetically modified small pox vaccine (NYVAC-HIV-C) as a carrier system. The further clinical I/II studies with 120 test persons in Lausanne, London,

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Paris and Regensburg started already in the beginning of 2008, under the patronage of the European research cluster EuroVacc.

“We take delight in the exceptional results of this clinical trial. Once again, we are looking at convincing proof for the extraordinary value of the GENEART technology platform for pharmaceutical research. The outcome is also a good example for the use of our expertise in a license based business strategy without having to burden GENEART with the financial project risks of clinical trials” explains Professor Dr. Ralf Wagner, CEO of the GENEART AG and Head of the Department for Molecular Microbiology & Gene Therapy at the University of Regensburg.

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### **About GENEART AG**

In 2000, GENEART entered the gene synthesis market and has since become the global market leader. Today, the company is one of the leading specialists in the synthetic biology field. Experts at GENEART provide key technologies for the development and production of new therapeutics

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and vaccines. Customers also take advantage of GENEART services to customize enzyme attributes, such as the attributes of enzymes used as detergent additives, and to construct bacteria, which produce complex biopolymers or break down polymers, such as synthetics, petroleum components, etc. Our production and service spectrum spans a wide range, from the production of synthetic genes according to DIN EN ISO 9001-2000, to the creation of gene libraries in the combinatorial biology, to the development and production of DNA-based biologically active substances. The GENEART AG in Regensburg (Germany) and the subsidiary GENEART Inc. in Toronto (Canada) employ more than 190 people. Since May 2006, GENEART is listed on the German Stock Exchange.