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### **License Agreement on Self-Assembled Ultrashort Peptide Technology**

The 3-D Matrix group is focused on the development of medical products on a global scale based on self-assembled peptide technologies. The company hereby announces the conclusion of a global license agreement between 3-D Matrix Asia Pte. Ltd. (“3DMA”), a subsidiary company, and Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd (“ETPL”), the technology transfer arm of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (“A\*STAR”) in Singapore, regarding the self-assembled ultrashort peptide technology.

This agreement grants license on the self-assembled ultrashort peptide technology invented by Dr. Charlotte Hauser, team leader and principal research scientist of the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN), a national research institute under A\*STAR. This technology will reinforce the group’s intellectual property portfolio, and allow for further commercial development opportunities as it will provide more options as to the types of peptides to be considered. This technology will be used in the areas of regenerative medicine and drug delivery systems in orthopedic surgery.

IBN’s technology is based on rationally designed ultrashort peptides that have an innate tendency to self-assemble to helical fibers within supramolecular structures. These peptides, which are composed of a hydrophobic tail and a hydrophilic head group, form hydrogels by changing their secondary structures from  $\alpha$ -helical intermediates to  $\beta$ -turn end structures. They demonstrate high mechanical stiffness and thermal stability.

These hydrogels can be used as carriers of cells and drugs. The hydrogels demonstrate high biocompatibility and injectability that are similar to  $\beta$ -sheet hydrogel (e.g. PuraMatrix). Therefore, these hydrogels are attractive for various biotechnological applications, for example for bone regeneration, and for sustained release of drugs, where they serve as scaffolds and carriers. Moreover, their short length substantially lowers the cost of synthesis.

The 3-D Matrix group will continue to focus on increasing its corporate value by expanding its intellectual properties portfolio, and through research and development of new medical

products in the area of regenerative medicine and drug delivery systems.

This patent granted does not influence the earning forecast of the company at this moment.

### **About the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology**

Established in 2003, the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) is the world's first bioengineering and nanotechnology research institute. IBN's mission is to conduct multidisciplinary research across science, engineering, and medicine for breakthroughs to improve healthcare and quality of life. IBN's research activities are focused in the following areas: Nanomedicine, Cell and Tissue Engineering, Biodevices and Diagnostics, Green Chemistry and Energy. For more information about IBN, please visit [www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg](http://www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg).