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**Patent Granted in Europe on Use of Lipid-Like Self-Assembling Peptide
Surfactant Technology as “Transfection Agent”**

The company hereby announces that a patent, jointly applied by Nippon Medical School and the company, concerning the use of lipid-like self-assembling peptide surfactant as transfectant reagent (i.e. reagent to introduce foreign genes into host cells) has been granted in Europe.

【Title of Invention】	Transfection Agent
【Patent Number】	Europe Patent No. 2,322,608
【Patent Owner】	Nippon Medical School, 3-D Matrix, Ltd.

This patent relates to the use and its application of lipid-like self-assembling peptide with surfactant activities as transfectant reagent to introduce short interfering RNA (siRNA), in order to suppress certain gene expression. This transfection method has been shown to be effective in suppressing cancer gene expression. In relation to this field, Dr. Taizo Yoshida (Associate Professor, Nippon Medical School Hospital) has published results in papers and academic conferences. The company is also collaborating with the National Cancer Center in preparation of clinical trials.

Cationic transfectant reagents such as cationic polymers and cationic liposomes are often used in transfection studies, but their cytotoxicity is also well known. Many studies are ongoing in search for a transfectant reagent with low cytotoxicity and high transfection rate. The patent granted on the use of lipid-like self-assembling peptide surfactant as transfectant reagent will be one of the methods with low cytotoxicity when introducing foreign genes to host cells.

In addition, various nucleic-acid carriers are being studied for gene therapy worldwide. Because of the low cytotoxicity, the lipid-like self-assembling peptide surfactant will be a good candidate for clinical use.

Utilizing this patent, the company will continue with research and development efforts and work to develop medical products, focusing on maximizing corporate value.

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