

Dr Reddy's ties up with US firm for cancer drug

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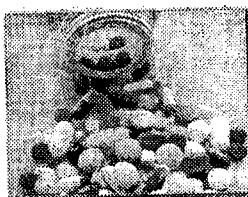
Hyderabad

US-BASED Biotechnology firm Curis and Aurigene, an arm of Dr Reddy's, have joined hands to develop and commercialise innovative drug products in areas of immune oncology and selected precision oncology targets, that could bring in millions of dollars for Dr Reddy's.

Under this transaction, Curis will issue to Aurigene around 17.1 million shares of its common stock, which translates into 19.9 per cent of its outstanding common stock, prior to the transaction, in partial consideration for the rights granted to Curis, the companies said in a joint statement.

Also, for the first two development programmes that the firms develop, Curis will pay Aurigene up to \$52.5 million per programme. For the third and fourth development programmes it would pay up to \$50 million and for any other programme beyond that, up to \$140.5 million per programme.

Later, Curis would pay Aurigene royalties on its net sales ranging between high single digits to 10 per cent in areas where it commercialises products, partly from amounts received from sub-licenses. In the exclusive collaboration, Aurigene will be responsible for carrying out discovery and pre-clinical development activities including the investigational



New pill

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new drug studies upto Phase I of clinical supply. On the other hand, Curis will take care of clinical development, regulatory and commercialisation efforts in all countries except India and Russia.

"The multi-year nature of our collaboration has the potential to generate a steady pipeline of novel drug candidates in the coming years. Addressing immune checkpoint pathways is now a well validated strategy to treat human cancers and the ability to target PD-1 and PD-L1 and other immune checkpoints with small molecule drugs has a potential to be a distinct and major advancement," said Ali Fattaey, president & CEO of Curis.

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exclusive collaboration