

GSK in \$350m deal to develop cancer drugs

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Reuters

BANGALORE/LONDON: GlaxoSmithKline has agreed a deal worth more than \$350 million with British biotech company Adaptimmune to develop cancer drugs based on novel cell-based therapies.

Adaptimmune said on Monday it would collaborate with GSK on its lead clinical program, which it said had already generated encouraging results in multiple myeloma, melanoma, sarcoma and ovarian cancer in trials in the United States.

The privately-owned company said it could receive payments in excess of \$350 million over the next seven years from the tie-up, subject to development goals being met, and significant development and commercialisation payments in subsequent years.

Adaptimmune said it would also receive sales royalties, ranging from single to double digits on net sales, on any products that reach market.

The company's cancer



HEALTH ISSUE: The firm's cancer therapies work by re-engineering the patient's own t-cells to target and destroy cancerous cells

therapies work by re-engineering the patient's own t-cells, a type of white blood cell, to target and destroy cancerous or infected cells.

GSK manufactures drugs and vaccines for major disease areas such as asthma, cancer, infections, diabetes, digestive and mental health conditions, the biggest selling of which were Advair, Avodart, Flovent, Augmentin, Lovaza, and Lamictal in 2013.

Many medicines were historically discovered or developed at GSK and its legacy companies and are now sold as generics. Its drugs and vaccines earned £21.3 million in 2013. Its consumer healthcare division, which earned £5.2 million in 2013, sells oral healthcare and nutritional products, drinks and over-the-counter medicines, including Sensodyne, Boost and Horlicks.

Company