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Gene Techno Science Co.,Ltd.  
Code: 4584 (TSE Mothers)  
President  
Masanari Kawaminami

## **Joint Development Agreement with Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho for Darbepoetin Alfa Biosimilars**

Gene Techno Science Co.,Ltd. has signed an agreement with Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., concerning the joint development of darbepoetin alfa biosimilars on January 21, 2014. On the same day, Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho signed a licensing agreement with Dong-A ST Co., Ltd., which is located in Korea, for the development and commercialization in Japan of darbepoetin biosimilars under development by Dong-A ST. These agreements will permit Gene Techno Science and Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho to perform joint development for the purpose of approval in Japan for these biosimilars made by Dong-A ST.

Darbepoetin alfa is a drug for the sustained stimulation of red blood cell production. Since 2007, this drug is used extensively in Japan to treat renal anemia in individuals with chronic kidney disease, including people who require dialysis. Annual sales of this drug in Japan is about 60 billion yen.

Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho is a subsidiary of Suzuken Co., Ltd. (Code: 9987, TSE 1st Section), which is a major pharmaceutical wholesaler. The company has been concentrating resources on diabetes and activities associated with diabetes. Kidney disease is another strategic business domain at Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho and R&D activities are under way. Gene Techno Science's filgrastim biosimilar, which was obtained from Dong-A ST, has already been started sales in Gene Techno Science plans to use its experience and expertise while taking full advantage of its relationship with Dong-A ST in order to develop darbepoetin alfa biosimilars with even greater speed and efficiency. Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho will handle the application procedure for manufacturing these biosimilars and will sell these products. Gene Techno Science will pay part the development expenses and, once sales begin, will receive royalties from Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho.

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