Press Release

Announcement regarding a Joint Research and Development Agreement between RIBOMIC Inc. and ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

TOKYO, February 8th, 2021 - RIBOMIC Inc. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Yoshikazu Nakamura, hereinafter "RIBOMIC") and ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Takashi Yamaguchi, hereinafter "ASKA") announced that we executed a multi-year joint research and development agreement for drug discovery research and development targeting specific hormone receptors with the aim of discovering new drugs.

In this research, we concluded this agreement due to matching the intention of RIBOMIC, a medical discovery platform bio-venture, developing aptamer which is a kind of Nucleic Acid medicines, and ASKA holding the management vision of "becoming highly competitive specialty pharma company," and actively promoting the development based on new products

ASKA has been focusing on the development of pharmaceutical products for diseases in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, and aims to create aptamer pharmaceuticals that act on certain hormone receptors that play a crucial role in the field, by using RiboART System, RIBOMIC's basic drug discovery technology.

With the conclusion of this agreement, ASKA will pay research expenditures to RIBOMIC on a step-by-step basis. RIBOMIC will also be entitled to an upfront payment for achievement of milestones in accordance with certain outcomes of the joint research. In addition, specific achievement conditions and amounts will not be disclosed under the contract.

The impact of this transaction on RIBOMIC and ASKA's results for FY2020 will be minor.

About RIBOMIC Inc.

As a drug discovery and clinical-stage bio-venture, we are engaged in drug discovery and clinical development of aptamer pharmaceuticals, which are expected to be developed as next-generation pharmaceuticals, as our core business, targeting a wide range of unmet medical needs, including pain, eye and bone diseases, and heart and lung failures. In addition, we are applying our RiboART system to fields other than drug discovery and working to develop new applications for aptamer other than drugs.

For more information, please refer to https://www.ribomic.com/eng/index.php

About ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Since its foundation in 1920, under its management philosophy of " Contribute toward the improvement of people's health and progress in medicine through the development of innovative products", ASKA has been concentrating its management resources on the three core areas of internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology and urology, and actively pursuing the development of drugs centered on new drugs in an effort to solve medical needs.

For more information, please refer to https://www.aska-pharma.co.jp/english/