



Curetis Group Company Ares Genetics Launches AI-powered Molecular Antibiotic Susceptibility Test

- *Blinded evaluation study with leading global IVD player demonstrated diagnostic performance in line with FDA requirements for antibiotic susceptibility testing (AST)*
- *Already received orders for more than 1,000 molecular AST tests offered under the brand name ARESupa – Universal Pathogenome Assay*
- *Total contractual order volume received in 2019 for next-generation sequencing tests as well as advanced bioinformatics, AI services and certain rights amounts to over EUR 2 million*

Vienna, Austria, and Holzgerlingen, Germany, October 28, 2019, 08:00 am CET - Curetis N.V. (the "**Company**" and, together with its subsidiaries, "Curetis"), a developer of next-level molecular diagnostic solutions, today announced that its fully-owned subsidiary Ares Genetics has launched an early access program for its novel, artificial intelligence (AI) powered, next-generation sequencing (NGS) based molecular antibiotic susceptibility test (AST).

Information on antibiotic susceptibility of pathogens is of utmost importance for clinical practice, epidemiology and public health purposes as well as for the development of pharmaceutical products in the infectious disease sector. Ares Genetics therefore has developed a molecular AST that will be marketed under the brand name ARESupa – Universal Pathogenome Assay. It is an expanded version of the NGS-based ARESupa initially launched in August 2019 for the identification of pathogens and resistance genes. The new version of the ARESupa is now capable of also accurately predicting antibiotic susceptibility via AI-powered interpretation of high-throughput DNA sequencing data.

ARESupa is based on whole-genome sequencing of bacterial strains isolated from clinical specimens, combined with data analysis and interpretation powered by ARESdb, Ares Genetics' unique, proprietary reference database on genetic antimicrobial resistance markers. ARESdb covers genomes of about 40,000 bacterial strains and associated susceptibility data for more than 100 different antibiotics.

Already, Ares Genetics has received commercial orders for more than 1,000 ARESupa tests, an order volume exceeding EUR 500,000. Together with advanced bioinformatics and AI services leveraging ARESdb for the diagnostics and pharma industry, as well as access to certain rights, Ares Genetics has contracted for and received orders amounting to more than EUR 2 million in 2019 to date.

A blinded evaluation study with a leading global IVD player recently demonstrated a predictive performance of the AI-powered ARESupa in line with FDA requirements for over 50 drug/pathogen combinations. Further blinded evaluation studies with leading academic medical centers are anticipated for Q4/2019.

With the early access program gaining momentum, broader commercialization of the AI-powered antibiotic susceptibility test is anticipated to begin in early 2020. The test will be initially offered for non-diagnostic applications in epidemiology, infection control, and outbreak analysis for customers in the public health sector and the pharmaceutical industry. A laboratory-developed test (LDT) on native patient samples for human diagnostic use in indications in which current culture-based diagnostic practice is inherently challenging is planned. Furthermore, Ares Genetics has recently entered into a multi-phase strategic partnership with an undisclosed leading global in vitro diagnostics corporation to jointly develop diagnostic solutions for infectious disease testing based on the ARESupa.

Ares Genetics' R&D programs for the development of ARESupa are co-funded by non-dilutive public grants provided by the Vienna Business Agency, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), and other institutions with a total co-funded volume of up to more than EUR 3 million. In addition to the ARESupa, Ares Genetics provides advanced bioinformatics and AI services to customers in the pharmaceutical industry and in public health, and in September 2019, QIAGEN, in a strategic partnership and under a license from Ares Genetics, launched ARESdb as part of its CLC Microbial Genomics Module for general explorative antibiotic research by the life science community.

Ares Genetics, which recently was recognized as a leading AI start-up in the DACH region by Forbes (<https://www.forbesdach.com/artikel/top-30-start-ups-aus-dem-dach-raum.html>), has been invited to present its AI-powered approach to molecular AST at various scientific and public health conferences in Q4/2019:

EIT Health German-French Bilateral Meeting 4-5 November, Mannheim, Germany

European Summit of Industrial Biotechnology 18-20 November, Graz, Austria

3rd Congress Immunotherapies & Innovations for Infectious Diseases 3-4 December, Lyon, France

13. Nationaler Qualitätskongress Gesundheit, 12-13 December, Berlin, Germany

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ARESupa Universal Pathogenome Assay

For further information and quotes, please register on the Ares Genetics cloud platform:

<https://ares-genetics.cloud/>

or contact

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About Curetis

Curetis N.V.'s (Euronext: CURE) goal is to become a leading provider of innovative solutions

for molecular microbiology diagnostics designed to address the global challenge of detecting severe infectious diseases and identifying antibiotic resistances in hospitalized patients.

Curetis' Unyvero System is a versatile, fast and highly automated molecular diagnostic platform for easy-to-use, cartridge-based solutions for the comprehensive and rapid detection of pathogens and antimicrobial resistance markers in a range of severe infectious disease indications. Results are available within hours, a process that can take days or even weeks if performed with standard diagnostic procedures, thereby facilitating improved patient outcomes, stringent antibiotic stewardship and health-economic benefits. Unyvero in vitro diagnostic (IVD) products are marketed in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the U.S.

Curetis' wholly owned subsidiary Ares Genetics GmbH is developing next-generation solutions for infectious disease diagnostics and therapeutics. The ARES Technology Platform combines the presumably most comprehensive database worldwide on the genetics of antimicrobial resistances, ARESdb, with advanced bioinformatics and artificial intelligence.

For further information, please visit www.curetis.com and www.ares-genetics.com.

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