

NEWS RELEASE

## NEOMED INSTITUTE AND GIP GENOPOLE ANNOUNCE A STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

**San Diego, June 20, 2017** – The NEOMED Institute and GIP GENOPOLE – the promoters of two successful national models for the development of biotechnology ecosystems – today announced the signature of a strategic cooperation agreement to explore and develop common initiatives to establish and sustain a collaborative relationship that will contribute to the growth of the biotechnology sector in and between Canada and France. Operating in two different countries, but with common goals and challenges, NEOMED and GIP GENOPOLE have recognized that there are multiple and mutual benefits to be gained by developing collaborative projects, targeting diverse areas such as joint R&D project financing, company creation and funding, transatlantic soft landing of companies, as well as strategic and logistic issues relating to the future development and sustainability of innovation ecosystems.

Commenting on this announcement, Donald Olds, President and CEO of the NEOMED Institute declared: “We are extremely pleased to announce this strategic collaboration today. GENOPOLE is the biggest life science cluster in France and, with nearly 20 years of experience as well as significant achievements, it represents a model innovation system that is perfectly aligned with NEOMED’s mission to create and nurture a strong Canadian biotechnology cluster while promoting the advancement of leading-edge Canadian scientific innovation towards successful commercialization. We believe that the strategic initiative announced today with GENOPOLE will rapidly lead to new opportunities and networks for the biotechnology and service companies that form our respective communities.”

“GENOPOLE is increasingly keen on developing international connections and North America is a priority to us” has commented Dr. Jean-Marc Grognet, CEO of GIP GENOPOLE. “Engaging with NEOMED is a clear logical step in that direction as Montreal has always been at the forefront of biotechnology developments. NEOMED has developed into a very dynamic innovation environment and we hope that it will also be the gateway to foster relationships with Canadian companies. We are looking forward to establishing closer links with the NEOMED community and to facilitate its access to French and European networks”.

## **ABOUT NEOMED Institute**

The NEOMED Institute is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to bridge the gap between basic research and the commercialization of new drugs by providing industrial expertise in drug discovery and development, combined with funding and a favorable ecosystem, to transform innovations into solid therapeutic solutions.

NEOMED drives drug discovery activities up to the stage of human proof of concept. NEOMED operates two fully integrated research and development campuses: one in Ville Saint-Laurent (Technoparc), specializing in small molecule therapeutics, and the other in Laval (Cité de la Biotech), specializing in the development of biologics and vaccines. Both facilities function as open-access drug discovery hubs housing independent commercial businesses (29 independent companies employing almost 300 people) and providing a dynamic environment that stimulates collaboration, innovation, and creativity. NEOMED's wholly-owned for-profit subsidiary, NEOMED-LABS, a Contract Research Organization (CRO) providing customized and high-throughput immune-monitoring for clinical vaccine development, is one of these tenants.

NEOMED is jointly funded by the pharmaceutical industry, the Ministère de l'Économie, de la Science et de l'Innovation du Québec, and the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) of Canada.

## **ABOUT GIP GENOPOLE**

Genopole is France's leading biocluster with 86 biotech companies, 19 public research groups, and 25 technology platforms focusing principally on genomics-driven R&D and genomics-derived innovation, and located in Evry. GIP Genopole is the promoter and facilitator of the development of the biocluster that also provides support services to entrepreneurs in its Shaker Incubator and Booster Accelerator. The Université d'Évry-Val-d'Essonne (a member of the University Paris-Saclay), the Centre Hospitalier Sud-Francilien (a 1050-bed regional hospital), and specific AFM-Telethon's research teams (specializing in gene and cell therapy) are also part of the Genopole biocluster. GIP Genopole is mainly financed by the Regional Council of Île-de-France, the Department of Essonne and France's Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

For more information, please visit [www.neomed.ca](http://www.neomed.ca) or [www.genopole.fr](http://www.genopole.fr), or contact:

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