

Tavoli tematici

Contributo SIFI SpA

1. Dati proponente contributo

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2. Riferimento del contributo al tavolo tematico

| Data | Tavolo tematico | | | Contributo* | Orario |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | sala 1 | Contributo* | sala 2 | | |
| 8 maggio '14 | Agroalimentare | | Turismo, Cultura e Beni Culturali | | 9.30 – 13.30 |
| | Energia | | Economia del mare | | 15.30 – 19.30 |
| 9 maggio '14 | Smart Cities&Communities | | Scienze della Vita | X | 9.30 – 13.30 |

*Barrare con una X la colonna Contributo di riferimento



3. Sintesi del contributo

SIFI is a pharmaceutical Company focused on the Eye Care business. Since its foundation, in 1935, SIFI has always controlled the entire life cycle of its products, from development stage to manufacturing, marketing and sales.

SIFI manufactures Rx drugs, OTC products and Medical Devices for the treatment of the most important ocular diseases such as Glaucoma, Infection, Allergy, Dry Eye Syndrome and Inflammation. Additionally, SIFI has successfully developed and launched nutraceutical products aimed at slowing down the progression of some invalidating retinal pathologies, such as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). In Italy it is the leader of the ophthalmic drugs market among the domestic companies and it is continuously growing internationally in selected european, middle east, latin america and asian countries through local partners or direct subsidiaries.

SIFI is also enlarging its business through its recent surgical and diagnostic business division (SIFI MedTech Srl), mainly focused on the cataract surgery (development and manufacturing of advanced medical device products, such as Intra Ocular Lens and diagnostic equipment).

SIFI's R&D capabilities include pharmaceutical technology and analytical chemistry, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, toxicology and microbiology.

R&D projects are particularly focused on ocular diseases affecting the anterior segment of the eye (Infection, Inflammation, Allergy and Dry Eye Syndrome), whereas projects on Retinal Diseases and Glaucoma are mostly the object of a regular external monitoring in order to identify in-licensing and/or joint development opportunities.

As part of its research strategy, SIFI is involved in research programs that are supported by means of public research funds. These projects are conducted in collaboration with academic, public and private institutions complementing the Company skills and know-how to broaden the ability of embracing highly complex and challenging R&D ventures.

In particular, SIFI has recently been granted public financial support within two initiatives, respectively coded ODAK and Hippocrates; both fulfill SIFI R&D strategies primarily aimed at developing new products and/or assets for its core business.

In brief, ODAK (Orphan Drug for Acanthamoeba keratitis) is a project undertaking the pharmaceutical development of the orphan drug polihexanide (PHMB) with the aim to provide a safe and effective drug for the treatment of Acanthamoeba keratitis, a rare ocular disease. ODAK is financed within the 7th European Framework Program. Currently, no drug is approved for the treatment of this rare sight-threatening infectious disease. PHMB has received the orphan drug designation (EU/3/07/498) according to EC regulation 141/2000. More details are available at www.odak-project.eu.

While ODAK is being delivered by a consortium of partners located in several European countries, Hippocrates is a project designed to exploit synergies between companies and public institutions on the Sicilian territory that joined the Sicily Micro- and Nano-Systems Technologic District, sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR) through the PON R&C 2007-2013 funds.



The aims of this project suit the interests that SIFI pursues in the search for innovative systems for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of eye diseases (e.g. glaucoma, AMD, uveitis, dry eye) by means of advanced micro- and nano-technologies. More details on the project are available at www.hippocrates-project.org/EN/.

R&D activities are also focusing on other publicly funded initiatives aiming at stepping even further along the path in search of innovative therapeutic approaches in ophthalmology.

In particular, SIFI has played an important role in the founding of the Sicily Bio-Medic Technologic District. In this context, SIFI has submitted projects proposals along with several public partners in three different areas of interest concerning i) innovation on drug delivery technologies, ii) advanced biotechnologies platforms for human health and iii) integrated diagnostic devices. These projects are currently being evaluated by the MIUR in order to establish details concerning the eligibility for public funding.

SIFI R&D strategy includes a specific interest pursuing the advancement of medical knowledge specifically targeting retinal pathologies. Indeed, with the aim to find new therapies through drug repurposing approaches as well as identifying new therapeutic targets, collaborating with public research institutions SIFI has conceived an ambitious project specifically targeting unmet therapeutic needs concerning degenerative pathologies of the retina (e.g. age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy). This project codenamed REACT (REtinal Advanced Care Therapies) has recently received scientific approval and related funding by MIUR.

Allegati

ALLEGATO 1: SIFI GROUP PRESENTATION

ALLEGATO 2: TABELLA SIFI (PIANO DI LAVORO TEMATICO - SCIENZE DELLA VITA)