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Tekmira Provides Update on Licensed Product Candidate, Marqibo(R)

Spectrum Pharmaceuticals Launches Marqibo and Ships First Commercial Orders

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Sept. 3, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corporation (Nasdaq:TKMR) (TSX:TKM), a leading developer of RNA interference (RNAi) therapeutics, disclosed that its licensee, Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq:SPPI), announced that it has launched Marqibo through its existing hematology sales force in the United States and has shipped the first commercial orders. Tekmira is entitled to royalty payments based on Marqibo's commercial sales.

"We are pleased that Marqibo — an innovative cancer treatment based on Tekmira technology — has been successfully launched in the United States with orders already being shipped. The sales of Marqibo represent a recurring revenue stream for Tekmira. Furthermore, with two ongoing Phase III trials, we anticipate data evaluating Marqibo in expanded oncology indications," said Dr. Mark J. Murray, Tekmira's President and CEO.

Marqibo, which is a novel, sphingomyelin/cholesterol liposome-encapsulated formulation of the FDA-approved anticancer drug vincristine originally developed by Tekmira, was licensed from Tekmira to Talon Therapeutics in 2006. In July 2013, Talon was acquired by Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Marqibo's approved indication is for the treatment of adult patients with Philadelphia chromosome-negative acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph- ALL) in second or greater relapse or whose disease has progressed following two or more lines of anti-leukemia therapy.

For more detailed information about the commercial launch of Marqibo, please refer to Spectrum's news release dated September 3, 2013, which can be found at <http://www.sppirx.com>. The full prescribing information for Marqibo can be found at www.marqibo.com.

About RNAi and Tekmira's LNP

RNAi therapeutics have the potential to treat a broad number of human diseases by "silencing" disease causing genes. The discoverers of RNAi, a gene silencing mechanism used by all cells, were awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. RNAi therapeutics, such as "siRNAs," require delivery technology to be effective systemically. Tekmira believes its LNP technology represents the most widely adopted delivery technology for the systemic delivery of RNAi therapeutics. Tekmira's LNP platform is being utilized in multiple clinical trials by both Tekmira and its partners. Tekmira's LNP technology (formerly referred to as stable nucleic acid-lipid particles or SNALP) encapsulates siRNAs with high efficiency in uniform lipid nanoparticles that are effective in delivering RNAi therapeutics to disease sites in numerous preclinical models. Tekmira's LNP formulations are manufactured by a proprietary method which is robust, scalable and highly reproducible, and LNP-based products have been reviewed by multiple FDA divisions for use in clinical trials. LNP formulations comprise several lipid components that can be adjusted to suit the specific application.

About Tekmira

Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corporation is a biopharmaceutical company focused on advancing novel RNAi therapeutics and providing its leading lipid nanoparticle delivery technology to pharmaceutical partners. Tekmira has been working in the field of nucleic acid delivery for over a decade and has broad intellectual property covering LNPs. Further information about Tekmira can be found at www.tekmirapharm.com. Tekmira is based in Vancouver, B.C.

Forward-Looking Statements and Information

Forward-looking statements in this news release include statements about Tekmira's strategy, future operations, clinical trials, prospects and the plans of management; RNAi (ribonucleic acid interference) product development programs; Tekmira's entitlement to receive milestone and royalty payments based on the development and commercialization of Marqibo; the launch of Marqibo; Tekmira's anticipated royalty payments based on the commercial sales of Marqibo; and the ongoing Phase III trials evaluating Marqibo in expanded oncology indications and additional data on Marqibo as a result thereof.

With respect to the forward-looking statements contained in this news release, Tekmira has made numerous assumptions

regarding, among other things: LNP's status as a leading RNAi delivery technology; Tekmira's research and development capabilities and resources; Marqibo's effectiveness as a treatment of adult patients with Philadelphia chromosome-negative acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph- ALL) in second or greater relapse or whose disease has progressed following two or more lines of anti-leukemia therapy; Tekmira's entitlement to receive milestone and royalty payments based on the commercial launch of Marqibo in the United States; and, the time required for development partners and licensees to complete research and product development activities. While Tekmira considers these assumptions to be reasonable, these assumptions are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, market and social uncertainties and contingencies.

Additionally, there are known and unknown risk factors which could cause Tekmira's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements contained herein. Known risk factors include, among others: the anticipated milestone or royalty payments from Marqibo may not be received in the quantum and/or within the timing currently anticipated, or at all; ongoing Phase III trials for Marqibo may not continue as anticipated or produce any data evaluating Marqibo in expanded oncology indications; Tekmira's development partners and licensees conducting clinical trial, development programs and joint venture strategic alliances will not result in expected results on a timely basis, or at all; anticipated payments under contracts with Tekmira's collaborative partners may not be received by Tekmira on a timely basis, or at all, or in the quantum expected by Tekmira; Tekmira's cash runway may not extend as far as anticipated, and may be substantially less than required to continue current operations; and the possibility that Tekmira has not sufficiently budgeted for expenditures necessary to carry out planned activities.

A more complete discussion of the risks and uncertainties facing Tekmira appears in Tekmira's annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2012 (Annual Report), which is available at www.sedar.com or at www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml. All forward-looking statements herein are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement, and Tekmira disclaims any obligation to revise or update any such forward-looking statements or to publicly announce the result of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect future results, events or developments, except as required by law.

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