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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New funding expands HIV antibody program

The Government of Canada provides additional support to PlantForm for its next phase of drug development

GUELPH, Ont., August 12, 2013—The National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) is providing technical advisory services as well as a financial contribution of up to \$477,679 to PlantForm Corporation for the second phase of the company's human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) antibody development project.

PlantForm is focusing on producing antibodies that fight HIV infection by disrupting the virus's method of entry into human CD4⁺ lymphocytes (T-cells).

The new funding will enable the company to develop an additional three antibodies for production in plants (bringing the total number of antibodies developed to six), with the goal of developing an anti-HIV therapeutic cocktail comprising up to six plant-produced antibodies. This phase of the project, which runs until February 2015, also includes testing a selection of the antibodies and developing a stable transgenic plant host for antibody production.

In the first phase of the project, PlantForm successfully produced three antibody drug candidates. The company evaluated those antibodies *in vitro* at Duke University in partnership with [The Collaboration for AIDS Vaccine Discovery](#).

"The evaluation showed that our plant-produced antibodies were as effective as mammalian-derived antibodies against 15 strains of HIV," said Dr. Don Stewart, PlantForm President and CEO.

Funding for the project is provided through [NRC-IRAP's Canadian HIV Technology Development \(CHTD\) Program](#), which is part of the [Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative \(CHVI\)](#), a collaboration between the Government of Canada and the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). The CHTD program awarded PlantForm a total of \$389,891 for the first phase of the project.

"Our long-term vision is to establish local manufacturing of these antibodies in Sub-Saharan African countries where HIV/AIDS is so prevalent, in order to minimize production costs and maximize accessibility for patients in need," Stewart said.



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PlantForm Corporation's mission is to provide low-cost biologic drugs to help people fight cancer and other critical conditions. The company is currently raising Series A capital to advance into the regulatory approval process for its first antibody product, a biosimilar version of the breast cancer drug Herceptin[®] (trastuzumab). Biosimilar versions of two additional antibody drugs for cancer are in development. PlantForm is also developing an enzyme to protect against nerve agent exposure under contract with the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Projected revenue is more than \$120 million by 2017.

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