applications of the technology outlined in the agreement.

5. Providing immunotoxin for laboratory and animal studies.

6. Publishing research results.

Selection criteria for choosing the CRADA Collaborator may include, but not be limited to:

1. The ability to collaborate with NCI on further research and development of this technology. This ability can be demonstrated through experience and expertise in this or related areas of technology indicating the ability to contribute intellectually to ongoing research and development.

2. The demonstration of adequate resources to perform the research and development of this technology (e.g., facilities, personnel and expertise) and accomplish objectives according to an appropriate timetable to be outlined in the CRADA Collaborator's proposal.

3. The willingness to commit best effort and demonstrated resources to the research and development of this technology, as outlined in the CRADA Collaborator's proposal.

4. The demonstration of expertise in the commercial development and production of products related to this area of technology.

5. The level of financial support the CRADA Collaborator will provide for CRADA-related Government activities.

6. The demonstration of expertise pertinent to the development of models to evaluate and improve the efficacy of immunotoxin in the prevention or treatment of graft-versus-host disease and/or allograft rejection.

7. The willingness to cooperate with the National Cancer Institute in the timely publication of research results.

8. The agreement to be bound by the appropriate DHHS regulations relating to human subjects, and all PHS policies relating to the use and care of laboratory animals.

9. The willingness to accept the legal provisions and language of the CRADA with only minor modifications, if any. These provisions govern the distribution of patent rights to CRADA inventions. Generally, the right of ownership are retained by the organization that is the employer of the inventor, with (1) the grant of a license for research and other Government purposes to the Government when the CRADA Collaborator's employee is the sole inventor, or (2) the grant for an option to elect an exclusive or nonexclusive license to the CRADA Collaborator when the Government employee is the sole inventor.

Dated: June 11, 1998.

Kathleeen Sybert,

Acting Director, Technology Development and Commercialization Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 98–16427 Filed 6–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Licensing Opportunity and/or Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (''CRADA'') Opportunity: Drug and Method for the Therapeutic Treatment of Ovarian Cancer and Mesotheliomas

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, PHS, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The NIH is a seeking Licensee(s) and/or Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (''CRADA'') Collaborators to further develop, evaluate, and commercialize a recombinant immunotoxin, termed SS(dsFv)–PE38. SS(dsFv)–PE38 is a disulfide-linked recombinant immunotoxin fused to PE38, a mutant form of *Pseudomonas* Exotoxin, that binds to mesothelin. Mesothelin is a differentiation antigen present on the surface of most ovarian cancers, mesoltheliomas, and several other types of human cancers including cervical cancer. In normal tissue, mesothelin is limited in its expression to mesothelial cells and basal cells of the trachea (low expression). Therefore, it represents an excellent target for antibody-mediated delivery of cytotoxic agents. The antigen is a 40 kD glycoprotein that is attached to the cell surface by phosphatidylinositol. SS (dsFv)–PE38 immunotoxin is very cytotoxic to cancer cells expressing mesothelin and binds with an affinity of approximately 11 nanomolar. The SS (dsFv)–PE38 immunotoxin also produces complete regressions of mesothelin containing solid tumors growing in nude mice. The goal is to move this drug and methodology into clinical trials. The invention is claimed in USPA SN 08/776,271 and PCT patent application PCT/US97/00224, entitled: ''Mesothelin, A Differentiation Antigen Present on Mesothelium, Mesotheliomas and Ovarian Cancers and Methods and Kits for targeting the Antigen'' and is available for either exclusive or non-exclusive licensing (in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR Part 404).

DATES: Respondees interested in licensing the invention(s) will be required to submit an ''Application for License to Public Health Service Inventions'' on or before September 21, 1998 for priority consideration.

Interested CRADA Collaborators must submit a confidential proposal summary to the NCI on or before September 21, 1998 for consideration. Guidelines for preparing full CRADA proposals will be communicated shortly thereafter to all respondents with whom initial confidential discussions will have established sufficient mutual interest. CRADA proposals submitted thereafter may be considered if a suitable CRADA Collaborator has not been selected.

ADDRESSES: Questions about licensing opportunities may be addressed to J.R. Dixon, Ph.D., Technology Licensing Specialist, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804; Telephone: (301) 496–7056 ext. 206; Facsimile: (301) 402–0220; E-Mail: ''DixonJOD.NIH.GOV''. Information about Patent Applications and pertinent information not yet publicly described can be obtained under the terms of a Confidential Disclosure Agreement. Respondees interested in licensing the invention(s) will be required to submit an ''Application for License to Public Health Service Inventions''.

Depending upon the mutual interests of the Licensee(s) and the National Cancer Institute (''NCI''), a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to collaborate to improve the properties of the SS(dsFv)–PE38 immunotoxin may also be negotiated. Proposals and questions about this CRADA opportunity may be addressed to Ms. Karen Maurey, Acting Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute, Technology Development & Commercialization Branch, 6120 Executive Plaza South-Room 450, Rockville, Maryland 20852; Telephone: (301) 496–0477; Facsimile: (301) 402–2117. Respondees interested in submitting a CRADA proposal should be aware that it may be necessary to secure a license to the above mentioned patent rights in order to commercialize products arising from a CRADA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NIH/NCI scientists have done toxicity studies with the SS(dsFv)-PE38 immunotoxin in mice and with an earlier single chain variant (SSFv-PE38) in Cynomolgus monkeys. Treatment of mice with 5μg

QOD × 3 (0.25 mg/kilo) produced complete tumor regressions without death or toxicity. Since the antibody does not react with mouse mesothelin, possible toxicities in mice are due to non-specific (liver) toxicity. NIH/NCI scientists have also administered this aforementioned single chain form to monkeys. SS(Fv)-PE38 reacts just as strongly with monkey mesothelin as it does with human mesothelin, and therefore, one would expect the monkey to be a good predictor of toxicity in humans. At a 0.05 mg/kilo dose level, no toxicity was experienced. A second monkey received 0.5 mg/kilo and showed a transient elevation in liver enzymes and non-specific physical signs (inactivity), but fully recovered.

In the United States, an estimated 15,000 patients die of ovarian cancer each year despite therapy. Although less common, mesotheliomas are known to be resistant to all chemotherapeutic agents. Development of new therapeutic modalities to treat these malignancies is needed.

A Cooperative Research and Development Agreement or CRADA means the anticipated joint agreement to be entered into by NCI pursuant to the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 and Executive Order 12591 of April 10, 1987 as amended by the National Technology Transfer Advancement Act of 1995 to collaborate to improve the properties of the SS(dsFv)-PE38 immunotoxin.

The rule of the NCI in the CRADA may include, but are not be limited to:

1. Providing intellectual, scientific, and technical expertise and experience to the research project.
2. Providing the Collaborator with samples of the subject compounds to create, optimize, test and develop targeted drugs for clinical studies.
3. Planning research studies and interpreting research results.
4. Carrying out research to improve the properties of the SS(dsFv)-PE38 which include, but are not restricted to, increased production yield, decreased side effects, increased cytotoxic activity and better tissue penetration.
5. Publishing research results.

The role of the CRADA Collaborator may include, but not be limited to:

1. Providing significant intellectual, scientific, and technical expertise or experience to the research project.
2. Planning research studies and interpreting research results.
3. Providing samples of the subject compounds to create, optimize, test and develop targeted drugs for clinical studies.
4. Providing technical and/or financial support to facilitate scientific goals and for further design of applications of the technology outlined in the agreement.
5. Incorporating the immunotoxin into liposomes or producing other formulations in order to increase the therapeutic efficacy.
6. Providing immunotoxin for laboratory and animal studies.
7. Publishing research results.

Selection criteria for choosing the CRADA Collaborator may include, but not be limited to:

1. The ability to collaborate with NCI on further research and development of this technology. This ability can be demonstrated through experience and expertise in this or related areas of technology indicating the ability to contribute intellectually to ongoing research and development.
2. The demonstration of adequate resources to perform the research and development of this technology (e.g. facilities, personnel and expertise) and accomplish objectives according to an appropriate timetable to be outlined in the CRADA Collaborator's proposal.
3. The willingness to commit best effort and demonstrated resources to the research and development of this technology, as outlined in the CRADA Collaborator's proposal.
4. The demonstration of expertise in the commercial development and production of products related to this area of technology.
5. The level of financial support the CRADA Collaborator will provide for CRADA-related Government activities.
6. The demonstration of expertise pertinent to the development of models to evaluate and improve the efficacy of the SS (dsFv)-PE38 immunotoxin for the treatment of ovarian cancer and mesotheliomas.
7. The demonstration of expertise in the formulation of drugs into liposomes or other delivery vehicles.
8. The willingness to cooperate with the NCI in the timely publication of research results.
9. The agreement to be bound by the appropriate DHHS regulations relating to human subjects, and all PHS policies relating to the use and care of laboratory animals.
10. The willingness to accept the legal provisions and language of the CRADA with only minor modifications, if any.

These provisions govern the distribution of patent rights to CRADA inventions. Generally, the rights of ownership are retained by the organization that is the employer of the inventor, with (1) the grant of a license for research and other Government purposes to the Government when the CRADA Collaborator's employee is the sole inventor, or (2) the grant of an option to elect an exclusive or nonexclusive license to the CRADA Collaborator when the Government employee is the sole inventor.

Dated: May 18, 1998.

Jack Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.

Dated: May 26, 1998.

Kathleen Sybert,

Acting Director, Technology Development and Commercialization Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 98–16426 Filed 6–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing: Novel Antitumor Macrocyclic Lactones, Compositions and Methods of Use

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institutes of Health is seeking licensees for the further development, evaluation and commercialization of materials and methods for novel cancer treatment agents. The invention claimed in DHHS Reference No. E–244–97/0, ''Novel Antitumor Macrocyclic Lactones, Compositions and Methods of Use,'' (Boyd, M. et al.) filed on 29 June 1997 as USSN 60/053,784, is available for licensing (in accordance with 35 USC 207 and 37 CFR Part 404).

ADDRESSES: Questions about the licensing opportunity should be addressed to Girish C. Barua, Ph.D., Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852–3804; Telephone: 301/496–7056 ext. 263; Fax: 301/402–0220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The invention relates to a series of macrocyclic lactones based on compounds isolated from certain marine sponges and tunicates. These compounds have *in vitro* activity against certain human solid tumors, including non-small cell lung cancer, renal cancer and melanoma, all important killers which are resistant to currently used drugs.

Of particular interest is the cell-line activity profile of these lactones, which indicates a novel mechanism of action. Such compounds hold the promise of *in*