



### **Abgenix Receives State of California Certification for New Biologics Manufacturing Facility**

FREMONT, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 20, 2003--Abgenix, Inc. (Nasdaq:ABGX) today announced that the company has received a Drug Manufacturers License from the State of California, Food & Drug Branch (FDB). This license allows Abgenix to manufacture and ship clinical material from its state-of-the-art, 100,000-square foot biologics manufacturing facility in Fremont, California. A California state license is obtained only after a manufacturer has successfully completed an inspection by the State Department of Health Services.

"With this license, we are now able to release bulk product that can be used in the ABX-EGF program, as well as bulk product for the entire Abgenix product portfolio," said Raymond M. Withy, Ph.D., president and CEO of Abgenix. "We have now assembled the specialized facilities and have developed a solid foundation of the functional expertise required to produce antibodies at both clinical and commercial scale. These capabilities are a crucial part of our competitive advantage and future as a drug development company."

Abgenix's biologics manufacturing facility features four 2,000-liter and two 12,000-liter bioreactors, and is built to comply with both US Food and Drug Administration and international biologics manufacturing regulations. It contains two parallel mammalian cell culture and recovery suites, with complete cell banking, cell culture, purification and fill/finish capabilities. Each bioreactor chain or production line is an integral, stand-alone operation with its own purification facilities. As a result, the facility can accommodate multiple products simultaneously at clinical scale, or it can produce up to hundreds of kilograms per year at the 12,000-liter scale.

Abgenix also operates a 30,000 square-foot laboratory and pilot plant designed to produce material suitable for use in Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)-compliant studies. The laboratories, pilot plant and manufacturing facility are designed to reduce variability and risk associated with product transfer.

"The process development, and scale-up to production scale, as well as initiation of the full-scale manufacturing process, are critical components of all antibody development programs," said Patrick M. Murphy, senior vice president of Production Services. "Much of the product development risk occurs at this phase. Abgenix's process sciences and manufacturing platform is designed to optimize the outcome by minimizing changes in process and manufacturing site."

#### **About Abgenix**

Abgenix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and manufacturing of human therapeutic antibodies. The company's antibody development platform includes a leading technology and state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities that enable the rapid generation, selection and production of high affinity, fully human antibody product candidates to a variety of disease targets. Abgenix leverages its leadership position in human antibody technology to build a diversified product portfolio through the establishment of collaborations with multiple pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. For more information on Abgenix, visit the company's website at [www.abgenix.com](http://www.abgenix.com).

Statements made in this press release about Abgenix's technologies, product development activities, collaborative arrangements and process science and manufacturing capabilities, other than statements of historical fact, and about its projected financial results and the achievement of milestone or similar payments, are forward-looking statements and are subject to a number of uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the statements made, including risks associated with the success of clinical trials, the progress of research and product development programs, product manufacturing, regulatory approval processes, competitive products and services, future capital requirements and the extent and breadth of Abgenix's patent portfolio. Please see Abgenix's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for information about risks that may affect Abgenix.

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