



Sosei Subsidiary Heptares Awarded \$5.5 Million Research & Development Grant from the US National Institute on Drug Abuse

Project to develop first-in-class Orexin-1 receptor antagonist for the treatment of cocaine addiction and dependence

Tokyo, Japan – 28 September 2015: Sosei Group Corporation (“Sosei”; TSE Mothers Index: 4565) is pleased to announce that its wholly-owned subsidiary Heptares Therapeutics (“Heptares”) has been awarded a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), one of the US National Institutes of Health. The grant of approximately \$5.5 million, with additional funding from Heptares, will support a three-year research project aimed at developing a selective antagonist for the human Orexin-1 receptor for use in treating cocaine addiction and dependence, for which there are currently no approved treatments.

The Orexin-1 receptor has been implicated in modulating cravings for a number of substances including cocaine, and antagonists of the receptor have been shown to be effective in models of cocaine addiction and dependence. Supported by the grant from NIDA, Heptares will progress lead molecules it has already identified to be selective antagonists of the Orexin-1 receptor to selection of a candidate drug, and then take this molecule through pre-clinical development. This project will be supported by the Heptares GPCR structure-based development platform, in particular making use of high-resolution X-ray structures Heptares has obtained of molecules bound to the closely related Orexin-1 and Orexin-2 receptors.

Fiona Marshall, Heptares Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder, said: “We are delighted to receive this grant award from NIDA. Blockade of the Orexin-1 receptor offers a new approach to target craving and relapse associated with drugs of abuse such as cocaine. We are using our structure based design approaches to identify and optimise highly selective Orexin-1 antagonists, and with the help of this grant from NIDA we intend to progress these through to clinical development.”

The research is supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the US National Institutes of Health, under Grant Number R01DA039553-01. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

-Ends-

Enquiries:

Sosei Group Corporation
Tokyo Office
Milica STOJKOVIC,
Corporate Communication
+81-(0)3-5210-3399
mstojkovic@sosei.com

London Office
Kathryn LYDON,
Corporate Communication
+44-(0)20-7691-0983
klydon@sosei.com



Notes to Editors:

About Sosei

Sosei is a biopharmaceutical company originating from Japan but with global presence. Sosei's primary business model is based on identifying novel and/or differentiated product assets or technology platforms and, through supporting these in preclinical and clinical development and establishing commercial partnerships, advancing new medicines to patients worldwide. For more information about Sosei, please visit www.osei.com/en.

About Heptares Therapeutics

Heptares is a clinical-stage company creating transformative medicines targeting G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs), a superfamily of 375 receptors linked to a wide range of human diseases. Its proprietary structure-based drug design technology enables Heptares to engineer drugs for highly validated, yet historically undruggable or challenging, GPCRs. Using this approach, Heptares has built an exciting pipeline of new medicines with the potential to transform the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, migraine, addiction, metabolic disease, and other indications. Heptares pharmaceutical partners include AstraZeneca, MedImmune, Cubist, MorphoSys and Takeda. Heptares is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sosei Group Corporation. For more information, please visit www.heptares.com.

HEPTARES is a registered trademark in the EU, Switzerland, US and Japan;

StaR[®] is a registered trademark in the EU and Japan.

###

Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements, including statements about the discovery, development and commercialisation of products. Various risks may cause Sosei's actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including: adverse results in clinical development programmes; failure to obtain patent protection for inventions; commercial limitations imposed by patents owned or controlled by third parties; dependence upon strategic alliance partners to develop and commercialise products and services; difficulties or delays in obtaining regulatory approvals to market products and services resulting from development efforts; the requirement for substantial funding to conduct research and development and to expand commercialisation activities; and product initiatives by competitors. As a result of these factors, prospective investors are cautioned not to rely on any forward-looking statements. We disclaim any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.