

## **ABL, Inc. and CALIXAR Announce Strategic Marketing Agreement**

Rockville, MD, USA and Lyon, France (October 30, 2013) – ABL, Inc. (ABL) today announced a co-marketing agreement with CALIXAR SAS (CALIXAR). Under the terms of the agreement, ABL will extend the capabilities of its vaccine and biologics therapeutic development services by offering CALIXAR's innovative process for native extraction and purification of membrane proteins and antigens that avoid the necessity of re-folding and mutagenesis, while maintaining functionality, structural integrity and increasing product yield.

The difficulties in developing purification procedures for membrane-bound proteins are especially challenging in a current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) environment where quality and consistency requirements often lead to higher scale-up costs. CALIXAR's innovative approach to modify the protein chemical environment, rather than the protein itself, results in preserving the structural and functional integrity of the target that is more closely associated with the performance of the native protein.

“We are constantly searching for innovative technologies that will result in greater value for our clients as they manage the extensive costs of drug development and manufacture” said Andrew Arrage, Vice President of Business Development at ABL. “CALIXAR has created a unique solution to address the often difficult issues encountered with production of proteins that are tightly bound to cell membranes. We are excited to offer this new service to our clients, in partnership with CALIXAR.”

“ABL has a strong track record in accelerating candidate selection and advancing products to the clinic, especially in the areas of vaccines and biologics” said Emmanuel Dejean, Chief Executive Officer and founder of CALIXAR. “Our complementary approaches will definitively secure and significantly improve the quality and the effectiveness of targets: that will help pharmaceutical industry in making the best of tomorrow's medicines.”

### **About ABL**

ABL, Inc. is a Maryland-based biomedical contract research and manufacturing organization dedicated to advancing vaccines, therapeutics and other biologic products. ABL has extensive experience working with diverse organizations, including government and academic entities and commercial bio/pharmaceutical companies. Notable services include basic research, product design, process and assay development and Phase I/II cGMP biologics manufacturing. Since 2001, ABL has been a part of the Institut Mérieux, a group of companies dedicated to developing translational science for better patient care globally. For more information on ABL and our services, please visit our website at [www.ablinc.com](http://www.ablinc.com).

### **About CALIXAR**

CALIXAR offers complete R&D services for native membrane protein isolation for drug and biodrug discovery. Membrane proteins including therapeutic targets like GPCRs, ion channels, transporters and viral proteins are very challenging targets to isolate and purify while maintaining structural integrity and activity. CALIXAR's isolation process maintains both functionality and structural integrity of the protein with a high level of purity (>95%) without going through denaturation steps during extraction. CALIXAR's clients are private and public research organizations interested in conformational antibody discovery, drug discovery by screening or Structure Based Drug Discovery, and vaccine discovery. After raising \$1 million in 2012, the company has a current workforce of 15 people in Lyon (France, HQ and laboratories). Furthermore, CALIXAR has recently established business offices in Philadelphia (US) and Tokyo (Japan). For more information: [www.calixar.com](http://www.calixar.com).

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