Stock Data

Share Price	0.75p
Market Capitalisation	£2.02m
Shares in issue:	268.78m
52 week high/low	2.50p/0.70p

Company Profile

Sector:	Pharmaceuticals
Ticker:	N4P
Exchange:	AIM

Activities

N4 Pharma plc ('N4 Pharma', 'N4P' or 'the Group') is a specialist pharmaceutical company nanoparticle and try developing a novel silica nanoparticle delivery system for vaccines and therapeutics for licensing to pharmaceutical and biotech partners.

www.n4pharma.com

5-year share price performance

Source: LSE

Past performance and forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future results.

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N4 Pharma plc

N4P has released a further, highly encouraging update from its ongoing *in vitro* siRNA research work. This demonstrates a strong beneficial effect on cellular inhibition from combined loading of EGFR (epidermal growth factor receptor) and PLK1 (Polo Like Kinase 1) onto the same Nuvec® nanoparticle, compared to single-dose siRNA when tested in PC9 lung cancer cells. The effect was seen to increase over time up to 48 hours in a number of repeat experiments, heightening each time according to the amount of siRNA applied. This news of course closely follows the Group's 7 December 2023 release that also confirmed Nuvec®'s ability to be loaded with and concurrently deliver two (or more) different siRNA known to inhibit relevant oncology targets without changes to size or charge, which are two essential parameters for successful cellular uptake. Taken together, these results suggest forthcoming clinical validation could rapidly elevate Nuvec® and/or the Group's LipTide® platform (which was recently secured through its Nanogenics Limited acquisition) into potentially lucrative third-party licensing/partnering opportunities. With the Group presently retaining a cash runway that extends into H2 2024 and with further works exploring siRNA concentrations/dose loading/oral bioavailability across different cell lines shortly underway, along with new *in vivo* studies and possibly further updates covering N4P's ongoing AAV viral vector testing, the coming months look to be a particularly busy period.

Nuvec® able to knockdown two independent pathways

The Nuvec® platform presents a highly innovative approach to development of novel cancer treatments that target reduced tumour escape through ability to knockdown two (or possibly even more) independent pathways.

Past results have demonstrated that when cells were treated with the highest dose of 75 nanomolar ('nM') of single loaded EGFR siRNA, cell viability after 48 hours dropped to 38%. When the same cells were treated with 75nM of single loaded PLK1 siRNA, cell viability dropped to 33%.

Today's results ideally showcase the versatility of the Nuvec® delivery system by combining 75nM of EGFR and PLK1 onto a single nanoparticle which reduced cell viability down to just 19%. N4P intends to present this convincing data to potential licensing partners with a view to further strengthening its opportunity for collaboration/licensing of its platform technologies.

Cash runway into the second half of this financial year

TPI estimates that N4P's recent acquisition of Nanogenics Limited will have lifted the Group's cash burn from a little over £100k/month during H1 2023 to around £130k/month from Q4 2023 and going forward into the current financial year. With c.£1.29m cash/cash equivalents in the Group's balance sheet at end-June 2023, there appears to be runway sufficient to take it to the start of H2 2024 based on current programmes/schedules, although any decision to further ramp up of development of either of its delivery platforms or its new key preclinical candidate will likely bring this schedule closer.

Commercialisation Strategy - Focusing on strong commercial points of difference

Having already refined its near-term commercial strategy in order to highlight Nuvec®'s specific points of difference as a carrier of multiple siRNA compounds, the recent majority acquisition of Nanogenics now also introduces a highly complementary but differentiated non-viral delivery technology along with a lead candidate that appears capable of securing a relatively quick route to clinic. Importantly, this opens opportunities to identify technical synergies through parallel development programmes involving both delivery platforms, while preclinical and clinical validation presents opportunity for third party partnering/licencing either individually or together.

Today's news is particularly exciting given that Nuvec® has already demonstrated ability to deliver multiple siRNA into the same cell, therein providing a unique solution for combination therapy treatments. Given that many drug development companies are presently undertaking early-phase preclinical/clinical testing/trials, they are generally more open to new, novel solutions than those at more advanced stages. Following its signing of two Material Transfer Agreements ('MTAs') back in 2021, one of which was a with major company in gene therapy and the second with a company developing its own DNA Covid vaccine, this work continues while the Group seeks further such partnership opportunities and, as such, the pace of progress here is largely determined by N4P's partner's own R&D work and drug launches.

Based on feedback from the patent examiner and further work the Group has already completed, it has been demonstrated that combining Nuvec® with adenoviral vectors (in addition to its earlier work on lentiviral vectors) can lead to an improvement in vector performance and a reduction in the amount of the viral vector required. Accordingly, N4P is presently pursuing patent applications in Europe (including UK); USA; Japan; India and Canada (and intends to file similar applications in Australia and China in due course) which, if granted, would be in addition to those already exclusively licensed from the University of Queensland in an effort to further strengthen the commercial protection of the delivery system. Having now demonstrated Nuvec®'s capability to orally transfect cells in the small intestine, the next step will be to repeat this success through *in vivo* studies, which management understands will be undertaken shortly, before moving onto clinical trials. During this period, marketing efforts and awareness raising exercises amongst interested parties will also be heightened.

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