



Biotech Daily

Tuesday August 18, 2009

Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

- * **ASX, BIOTECH DOWN: LABTECH UP 21%, OPTISCAN DOWN 13%**
- * **HEARTWARE RAISES FURTHER \$6.1m**
- * **KEY AUSTRALIAN PATENT FOR LABTECH MICROBIAL STREAKING**
- * **IDT PROFIT DOWN 10% TO \$6.4m; REVENUE DOWN 15% TO \$26.7m**
- * **IMPEDIMED CFO ROLE RELOCATES TO US; PHIL AUCKLAND RESIGNS**
- * **BIO-MELBOURNE WORKSHOPS HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

MARKET REPORT

The Australian stock market slipped 0.15 percent on Tuesday August 18, 2009 with the S&P ASX 200 down 6.8 points to 4381.6 points.

Eleven of the Biotech Daily Top 40 stocks were up, 20 fell, six traded unchanged and three were untraded.

Labtech was best, up three cents or 21.4 percent to 17 cents with 75,333 shares traded, followed by Universal Biosensors up six cents or 6.7 percent to 95 cents.

Cytopia climbed 5.3 percent; Peplin, Prana and Tissue Therapies were up more than four percent; Acrux and Sirtex were up more than three percent; Progen rose more than two percent; Clinuvel and Starpharma were up more than one percent; with CSL up one cent or 0.03 percent, with 3.55 million shares traded.

Optiscan led the falls, down 0.9 cents or 12.9 percent to 6.1 cents with 90,000 shares traded, followed by Antisense down 12.5 percent to 3.5 cents, Benitec down 12.1 percent to 3.5 cents and Compumedics down 10.5 percent to 17 cents.

Avexa lost 8.7 percent with 5.8 million shares traded; Psivida fell 7.8 percent; Cathrx, Living Cell, Novogen, Sunshine Heart and Viralytics were down more than six percent; Genetic Technologies and Uscom lost five percent or more; Circadian was down more than three percent; Alchemia, Bionomics and Resmed shed more than two percent; Biota and Nanosonics were down more than one percent; with Cellestis and Heartware down by less than one percent.

HEARTWARE

Heartware has raised a further \$US5 million (\$A6.1million) taking the total raised in the past week to \$US60 million.

Last week Heartware said it had raised \$US55 million (\$A66 million) through the private placement of 2.5 million shares of common stock to “a select group of institutional investors” and was considering an offer “to certain Australian investors” to buy up to \$US5 million in shares at the same price as the US placement (BD: Aug 11, 2009).

Heartware said at that time the purchase price was \$US22 per share.

One share of US common stock is equal to 35 Australian Chess Depository Instruments (CDIs) or HIN shares listed on the ASX, making the total placement equivalent to 87.5 million Australian shares at 75.4 cents a share.

The company said the issue of 1.39 million of the 2.5 million shares in common stock was subject to shareholder approval and those shares would be held in escrow until approval was obtained.

Heartware fell half a cent or 0.6 percent to 80 cents.

LABTECH SYSTEMS

Labtech says the Australian Patent Office has granted its patent for the agar plate streaking technology which is the core of its Microstreak system.

Labtech said the technology was invented by John Glasson and Lachlan Smith who at the time of the patent filing worked at Adelaide’s Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science.

Labtech said that in 2004 it licenced the technology from Medvet Science Pty Ltd, the Institute’s commercialization arm.

The company said the patent entitled ‘Microbial streaking device’ was part of a wider international application and covered the methods and design of the agar plate streaker, which was licensed to Biomérieux in 2007.

Labtech said the first application of the technology was launched in late 2008 to global pathology markets and is marketed by Biomérieux as the Previ Isola.

Labtech was up three cents or 21.4 percent to 17 cents.

IDT LTD

IDT’s net profit after tax for the 12 months to June 30, 2009 was down 10 percent to \$6,416,000 on revenue down 15 percent to \$26,701,000.

The company reported diluted earnings per share down from 16.5 cents to 14.9 cents.

The company said a final fully franked dividend of 5.0 cents a share with a record date of October 9, 2009 would be paid on October 23, 2009.

IDT said it had paid a fully franked interim dividend of 5.5 cents per share earlier this year.

IDT fell seven cents or 4.2 cents to \$1.60.

IMPEDIMED

Impedimed says the role of chief financial officer will be transferred to the group's San Diego facility.

Impedimed said it made a strategic choice in 2008 to establish the San Diego facility as the global operations hub, to support the key growth market in the US.

Impedimed said chief financial officer and company secretary, Phil Auckland had a new Australian-based executive role and resigned effective fromn September 25, 2009.

The company said the process to select a US based chief financial officer had begun and the Australian-based group finance manager Kym Fletcher would be interim CFO until a replacement was appointed.

Impedimed said the company secretarial role would be fulfilled by an independent party. Impedimed was untraded at 60 cents.

BIO-MELBOURNE NETWORK

The Bio-Melbourne Network's September Bio-Workshop will address human resources strategies.

The Network said the workshop would provide valuable information for chief executive officers, development directors, commercial and business development managers and those that have the responsibility for human resources within their organization.

Bio-Melbourne Network chief executive officer Michelle Gallaher said that many biotechnology companies focused on capital raising and intellectual property management as part of their business plans but neglect a human resources strategy as part of the company's risk management.

"The biotechnology sector is one of the few sectors that employs highly skilled staff with unique expertise that often can't be found even amongst the most highly trained scientists," Ms Gallaher said.

"Should one of these people walk out then the disruption to the business could be extremely detrimental," Ms Gallaher said.

Ms Gallaher said the way to avoid that situation and other tricky human resources issues was through "strategically planning the lifecycle of an employee".

The Network said the September 3 Bio-Workshop would map the employee lifecycle in detail.

The Bio-Melbourne Network said that Minter Ellison senior associates Tim Davey and Kylie Diwell as well as the Australian Stem Cell Centre human research director Graham Hobbs would share their experience and advice.

The Bio-Workshop will focus on three main areas: getting the contract right, ongoing employee management with a specific emphasis on the effects of the global financial crisis and employee exits with a focus on dispute resolution and avoiding litigation.

The September 3, 2009 Bio-Workshop will be held at Minter Ellison, 525 Collins St Melbourne from 8:45am to 12:15pm followed by lunch.

For more information go to <http://www.biomelbourne.org/events/view/37> or contact Ms Anita Petris at apetris@biomelbourne.org or +613 9667 8182.