



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Pfēnex Grants Exclusive License to Merck & Co. Inc for the Production of Proteins for Undisclosed Vaccine Program***

**San Diego, CA (December 14, 2009)** - *Pfēnex* Inc. announced today that it has granted Merck & Co., Inc., through an affiliate, an exclusive worldwide license to *Pfēnex* Expression Technology™ *Pseudomonas*-based recombinant protein expression technology for the production of specific proteins to be used in the development of an undisclosed vaccine candidate.

Under the terms of the agreement *Pfēnex* is eligible to receive approximately \$52 million in upfront and milestone payments as well as additional royalty payments on any product sales derived from the agreement. This license represents the second commercial license Merck has been granted to *Pfēnex* Expression Technology™.

Merck and *Pfēnex* scientists will collaborate on developing the production strains that will be used to express clinically relevant antigens in support of the preclinical and clinical development of the vaccine candidate. The agreement also includes non-exclusive rights for the production of proteins for diagnostic applications.

“We are pleased to be partnering with Merck”, said Bertrand C. Liang, CEO of *Pfēnex*, “This collaboration is a clear example of the strength of the *Pfēnex* Expression Technology being leveraged in the discovery, development and production of novel vaccines.”

### **About *Pfēnex***

*Pfēnex* is a protein production company leveraging the unique and powerful *Pfēnex* Expression Technology™ platform based on the micro-organism, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, for the production of research proteins, reagent proteins, biosimilars and innovator biopharmaceuticals. For more information please visit [www.pfenex.com](http://www.pfenex.com)

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