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### **ImmuneRegen 'ripe' for a takeout; interested in ideas from bankers, CEO says**

ImmuneRegen BioSciences, an Arizona-based biotechnology company, is "ripe" for a takeout and is interested in ideas that can be brought forward by bankers, according to CEO Michael Wilhelm. The CEO said that he is on the brink of talks with two investment banks, one of which is a smaller bank that contributed to previous private placements for the company. However, he said these banks do not have skill sets in the area of M&A, so would like to hear from other firms with that capacity.

ImmuneRegen is a wholly-owned subsidiary of IR BioSciences Holdings. Wilhelm said he is speaking for both ImmuneRegen and IR BioSciences as a combined possible takeout prospect.

Wilhelm said ImmuneRegen is ready for M&A activity, stating there are numerous companies out there but his is one that could and should be considered.

He added that since PharmAthene, the private Maryland-based biotech company, and Healthcare Acquisition merged earlier this year, which should have resulted in PharmAthene accruing more cash. That windfall could subsequently lead the company to "suddenly saying we want to build a pipeline, and ImmuneRegen is a great candidate".

Companies that ImmuneRegen could also feasibly see a tie-up with include Amgen, Emergent BioSolutions, Advanced Life Sciences, Novartis, Sanofi-Aventis, GlaxoSmithKline and MedImmune, he said.

However, ImmuneRegen is currently unrecognized and consequently has gone unnoticed by Wall Street, he said, as its market cap is about USD 20m, a figure that is sufficiently undervalued compared to ImmuneRegen's main radiation competitor, which has a USD 120m market cap. He would not identify the competitor.

He said ImmuneRegen as of late has wanted to "lay low" until it was close to receiving data on the company's ongoing trials. The company is seeking to collect data this year and create a substantial portfolio, which would make it more attractive. ImmuneRegen could also possibly entertain a co-development relationship with large pharma in the area of infectious disease, seasonal influenza or cancer treatment.

Wilhelm said ImmuneRegen continues to have a stream of conversations with industry competitors and potential partners, as it could take ImmuneRegen between USD 20m – USD 50m to bring a product to market, which means the company is not about to commercialize by itself.

Regarding whether ImmuneRegen could be spun out from IR BioSciences, Wilhelm said it is a possibility, and is frequently approached about this strategy. "My answer is sure what are you thinking...We are always open to some kind of offer or strategy like that. We have a broad application, what we might do is retain part of the science and spin the company out to another company or spin it out entirely," he said.

ImmuneRegen is developing Homspera and its derivatives Radilex and Viprovex as a family of countermeasures for multiple homeland security threats, including chemical agents, Acute Radiation

Sickness (ARS) from a dirty bomb or nuclear disaster, and infectious disease/biological warfare scenarios.

The company's research on its Viprovox product continues to expand the knowledge base for this potential anti-influenza drug and vaccine adjuvant. Vaccines are proving to not be as efficacious such as Sanofi Pasteur's for pandemic flu, Wilhelm said, pointing to the fact that he believes he has a strong candidate for an adjuvant or a candidate drug that could be made for any vaccine or other anti-viral already in the market.

by Sasha Damouni

**Source:** mergermarket

**Value:** USD 20m (Market cap of IR BioSciences)

**Stake Value:** more than 30% inclusive

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