

## **New mouse models in the field of metabolic disorders are now available through genOway**

**Lyon, France - 7th November 2007,**

genOway announces the availability of an innovative mouse model for studying metabolic disorders to the scientific community. Recently reported as a major susceptibility factor for type II diabetes (Sladek R et al., Nature 2007, Steinhorsdottir V et al., Nature Gen. 2007 and Scott LJ et al., Science 2007), the ZnT-8 protein is involved in insulin secretion and the zinc transport pathway in pancreatic islet cells. Today, genetically engineered mouse lines lacking the ZnT-8 protein in a constitutive or tissue-specific manner are available through genOway.

These ZnT-8 gene knock-out mouse lines represent relevant models to provide new insights into zinc transport and insulin secretion mechanisms and better understand type II diabetes pathogenesis.

Thanks to an agreement with the mouse line owner – Mellitech –, this mouse line is now available to the scientific community with a total freedom to operate as research licenses are automatically provided.

*"We are very pleased to have reached an agreement with genOway which is certainly the best partner possible in the animal model business" said **Philippe Barth**, MD, Mellitech's CEO. "Thanks to this agreement, we are proud to make these innovative mouse lines available in order to increase the knowledge related to the ZnT8 target, which has turned very attractive to the type II diabetes research community this year".*

### **About genOway:**

genOway (ALTERNEXT-NYSE: ALGEN) is a biotechnology company dedicated to the development of genetically modified animal models aimed at enhancing the safety and relevance of in vivo research projects. Focusing its efforts on the mouse and rat, genOway's expertise combines transgenic technologies such as pronuclear microinjection, knock-out, knock-in, knock-down, point mutation and humanization combined with innovative patented technologies adapted to target validation, in vivo drug screening, drug efficacy and safety testing programmes. Collaborations with worldwide leaders (Charles River Laboratories, Invitrogen, Tet systems, etc.) enable genOway to provide its customer with a complete portfolio of products and services for all aspects of model generation and characterization. Operating in 22 countries in Europe, North America and Asia, genOway has developed more than 450 rat and mouse lines for 40 companies and 160 research institutions. Thanks to its industrialized production facilities, genOway is involved in large-scale projects with several academic centres (German National Genome Research Network, University College London, King's College London, Max Planck Institute) and with pharmaceutical companies (Bayer Corp, Boehringer Ingelheim, Johnson & Johnson). For more information visit: [www.genoway.com](http://www.genoway.com).

### **About Mellitech:**

Mellitech SAS is a French discovery-based company incorporated in 2005. Spin-off from CEA Grenoble (Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique) and UJF (Joseph Fourier University) the company is dedicated to discovering and developing innovative anti-diabetic compounds, and to designing the first product for the functional imaging of the pancreas and new diagnostic methods based on its patented SLC30A8/ZnT8 target. Mellitech has recently reached a significant milestone with first hits and is currently setting its Series A financing round to move forward on its development plan. For more information visit: [www.mellitech.com](http://www.mellitech.com)