

## MaxCyte

### Nkarta signs SPL to accelerate its NK cell therapies

4 November 2021

- [Nkarta Therapeutics](#) has entered into a strategic platform licence (SPL) agreement to gain clinical and commercial rights to use MaxCyte's Flow Electroporation technology and the ExPERT platform. This non-exclusive licence is the fifteenth such deal and, in common with the prior licences, the financial terms are not disclosed. MaxCyte will receive platform licensing fees and programme-related milestone payments.
- Nkarta's cell therapy approach is based on Natural Killer (NK) cells, which, unlike T-cell therapies (CAR-Ts), have an inherent ability to target tumour cells without the need for tailored genetic modification. Nkarta's CAR-NK platform can target many solid tumour types, allows allogeneic manufacturing (it is available off-the-shelf), has a potent and sustained cytotoxic effect, and offers the prospect of fewer side-effects.
- Nkarta will use MaxCyte's transfection technology platforms to create and produce the genetically relevant (mbIL15 and CAR) NKs in a robust and consistent manner. Its lead asset, NKX101 (NKG2D ligand), is in Phase I for relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) or high-risk myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), with initial data expected in H122. NKX019 (CD19+) [recently](#) began a Phase I in advanced B-cell malignancies. Two earlier-stage programmes (one for CD70+ tumours, the other undisclosed) are partnered with CRISPR Therapeutics.
- This agreement with Nkarta is MaxCyte's fifteenth SPL deal and the fourth secured in 2021 so far. MaxCyte is increasingly acknowledged as an industry leader in non-viral cell delivery and engineering. The ExPERT flow electroporation platform is based on over 20 years of development, which has resulted in its ability to provide high transfection rates, consistent reproducibility, and high versatility in introducing a wide range of molecules into cells.

Price	784p \$10.96
Market Cap	£787.4m \$1,104m
Primary exchange	AIM London
Sector	Healthcare
Company Code	MXCT.L MXCN.L MXCT
Corporate client	Yes

#### Company description:

MaxCyte uses its patented flow electroporation platform to transfect a wide array of cells. Revenues arise from sale and lease of equipment, disposables, and licence fees from an impressive client list. Key programmes with several clients are gaining greater visibility and approaching material value-inflection points. These will trigger a stream of milestone fees.

**Trinity Delta view:** MaxCyte's proven expertise is increasingly at the heart of the new generation of gene-edited and cell therapies, which effectively makes MaxCyte a unique and diversified play on the whole cell engineering field, providing broad exposure across cell types, technologies, indications, and approaches. Its growing and diverse portfolio of SPLs covers a variety of modalities with many of the leading and emerging players in the development of cell and gene therapies, and management have indicated that its pipeline of SPL opportunities is the strongest and most diverse to date. Pipeline visibility at MaxCyte's SPL partners is improving and, in our view, will be a major determinant of its share price progression. SPL-derived revenues should come to the fore in the medium term as progress across its SPL stable contributes to build a meaningful pre-commercial milestone stack. We intend to revisit our forecasts and valuation following Q321 results on November 10.

#### Analysts

##### Lala Gregorek

lgregorek@trinitydelta.org  
+44 (0) 20 3637 5043

##### Franc Gregori

fgregori@trinitydelta.org  
+44 (0) 20 3637 5041

Lala Gregorek

[lgregorek@trinitydelta.org](mailto:lgregorek@trinitydelta.org)  
+44 (0) 20 3637 5043

Franc Gregori

[fgregori@trinitydelta.org](mailto:fgregori@trinitydelta.org)  
+44 (0) 20 3637 5041

### Disclaimer

Trinity Delta Research Limited ("TDRL"; firm reference number: 725161), which trades as Trinity Delta, is an appointed representative of Equity Development Limited ("ED"). The contents of this report, which has been prepared by and is the sole responsibility of TDRL, have been reviewed, but not independently verified, by ED which is authorised and regulated by the FCA, and whose reference number is 185325.

ED is acting for TDRL and not for any other person and will not be responsible for providing the protections provided to clients of TDRL nor for advising any other person in connection with the contents of this report and, except to the extent required by applicable law, including the rules of the FCA, owes no duty of care to any other such person. No reliance may be placed on ED for advice or recommendations with respect to the contents of this report and, to the extent it may do so under applicable law, ED makes no representation or warranty to the persons reading this report with regards to the information contained in it.

In the preparation of this report TDRL has used publicly available sources and taken reasonable efforts to ensure that the facts stated herein are clear, fair and not misleading, but make no guarantee or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of the information or opinions contained herein, nor to provide updates should fresh information become available or opinions change.

Any person who is not a relevant person under section of Section 21(2) of the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000 of the United Kingdom should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents. Research on its client companies produced by TDRL is normally commissioned and paid for by those companies themselves ('issuer financed research') and as such is not deemed to be independent, as defined by the FCA, but is 'objective' in that the authors are stating their own opinions. The report should be considered a marketing communication for purposes of the FCA rules. It has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and it is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research. TDRL does not hold any positions in any of the companies mentioned in the report, although directors, employees or consultants of TDRL may hold positions in the companies mentioned. TDRL does impose restrictions on personal dealings. TDRL might also provide services to companies mentioned or solicit business from them.

This report is being provided to relevant persons to provide background information about the subject matter of the note. This document does not constitute, nor form part of, and should not be construed as, any offer for sale or purchase of (or solicitation of, or invitation to make any offer to buy or sell) any Securities (which may rise and fall in value). Nor shall it, or any part of it, form the basis of, or be relied on in connection with, any contract or commitment whatsoever. The information that we provide is not intended to be, and should not in any manner whatsoever be, construed as personalised advice. Self-certification by investors can be completed free of charge at [www.fisma.org](http://www.fisma.org). TDRL, its affiliates, officers, directors and employees, and ED will not be liable for any loss or damage arising from any use of this document, to the maximum extent that the law permits.

Copyright 2021 Trinity Delta Research Limited. All rights reserved.

More information is available on our website: [www.trinitydelta.org](http://www.trinitydelta.org)