

September 25, 2013

Pfizer subsidiary Meridian awarded government contract to develop auto-injector medical countermeasure against nerve agent exposure

Meridian Medical Technologies, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Pfizer Inc., was awarded a five-year contract by the Biomedical Advanced Research & Development Authority (BARDA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The contract was awarded on September 25, 2013 and has an estimated value of \$60 million. The objective of the program supported by this contract, which is authorized under Project Bioshield, is to develop midazolam auto-injectors as a replacement for the diazepam auto-injectors currently in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) as a medical countermeasure against nerve-agent exposure.

The first phase of the contract is for advanced development of midazolam auto-injectors for the treatment of nerve agent-induced seizures. Meridian also will seek FDA approval of a midazolam autoinjector for children and adults, and seek approval of midazolam for use in treating common prolonged seizures.

This program is designed to fill a critical need for pediatric medical countermeasures, as no auto-injectors are currently approved by the FDA to treat nerve agent-induced seizures in pediatric populations. The U.S. Government has made a significant commitment through the Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) of 2006, and its re-authorization (PAHPRA) this year, to develop FDA-approved treatments for children and other special populations that are potentially vulnerable to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats. Meridian is honored to work with BARDA on this important project.

As its core business for more than 50 years, Meridian has focused on the development, production, and commercialization of acute care pharmaceuticals administered by its proprietary auto-injector technology. An auto-injector is a pre-filled, pen-like device that allows a patient or caregiver to automatically inject a defined drug dosage. Meridian's auto-injector products are designed to be administered by the patient or caregiver through clothing and personal protective equipment.