



## **Oxford Cannabinoid Technologies Holdings plc – Company Background**

Oxford Cannabinoid Technologies Holdings plc is the holding company of Oxford Cannabinoid Technologies Ltd (OCTP). OCTP is a pharmaceutical company dedicated to developing prescription cannabinoid medicines for the US\$ multi-billion global pain market, with the objective of bringing non-addictive medicines to people living with chronic pain every day that is either unresolved by or is resistant to current treatments.

Many of these people become dependent on opioids and the consequences of these. In the US alone, there were an estimated 60,000 opioid-related deaths in 2020. There is an urgent need for new, licensed, and effective treatments and regulatory agencies, such as the FDA, are supporting efforts to address this crisis.

Even though people have self-medicated with cannabis for many years for many different types of conditions including pain, there is not enough robust scientific and clinical data for the treatment of chronic pain to support its wide use and the approval of national healthcare systems. This is what OCTP is doing – research, development and clinical trials which will provide the evidence that will allow national health systems such as the NHS to approve its use, allow doctors to prescribe cannabinoids with confidence and give people suffering from chronic pain a safe, efficacious and non-addictive alternative to opioids.

Cannabinoids are compounds found in the cannabis plant that have been shown to have a range of therapeutic effects on the body, including pain relief. The advantage of pharmaceutical cannabis is that it can be chemically altered or synthetically manufactured to ensure that each time a person takes the medicine, it has the same affect.

OCTP has a clearly defined path to commercialisation, revenues and growth.

The Group's portfolio aims to balance risk, value and time to market, developing each compound for multiple indications, both large and orphan conditions with IP protection and market exclusivity. The company is following a fast-track drug development strategy, in partnership with external academics and commercial research organisations and currently has a portfolio of nearly 500 cannabinoid derivatives. While the focus of the Company remains on chronic pain conditions including rare diseases this extensive library of compounds will provide the opportunity to widen the focus of the research into other therapeutic areas in the future.

OCTP has four active drug development programmes:

**Programme 1** – the Company's lead compound, OCT461201, is a highly potent and selective CB2 agonist and is currently progressing through Phase I clinical trials with results due in calendar Q3 2023. The initial target indication is as a first-in-class treatment for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) for which there are currently no licensed treatments. On average, an estimated 60% of people undergoing chemotherapy are affected by CIPN after 3 months. The

hallmarks of CIPN are pain, numbness and tingling in the extremities. CIPN can be progressive, enduring, often irreversible, leading to many years of debilitation and suffering. The global market for CIPN was valued at US\$1.61bn in 2020 with a CAGR of 6.4%.

OCTP461201 is being developed in a solid oral dosage form and will be tested for other pain conditions including Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

**Programme 2** – OCT130401 is a synthesis of two cannabinoids and is being developed in a drug/device combination with an initial target of a severe type of face pain called Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN).

This condition causes debilitating and excruciating pain, has a fast and unexpected onset and because of this has been difficult to treat. Sufferers experience an intense, stabbing electric shock-like pain. Each episode may only last few seconds or minutes, but some people will suffer multiple (up to 100) episodes in one day. OCTP's medicine will be designated orphan status and delivered via an inhaler which may mean faster onset of pain relief when compared to other routes. Cases are increasing with between approximately 10,000 and 15,000 new cases in the United States diagnosed each year. The Directors estimate that in 2021 there were more than 77,000 people living with the condition in the UK.

Pre-clinical studies are now completed for OCT130401 and preparations are underway for the clinical phases.

#### **Programme 3 & 4**

Programmes 3 & 4 are in early stage development and have significantly advanced as a result of OCTP's worldwide exclusive licence from Canopy Growth Corporation which includes 335 cannabinoid derivatives, already available and tested together with 14 patent families.

Programme 3 (OCT960609) is targeting an as yet undisclosed indication the pain market. It is a dual CB1/CB2 agonist which, in early studies, has demonstrated good bioavailability via oral administration as well as a better profile than THC in terms of analgesia and behavioural alterations.

Programme 4 marks an expansion of OCTP's strategy as this molecule is targeting oncology, rather than pain. Programme 4 is a potential 'first in class' immunotherapy agent for the treatment of solid tumours. Analysis of the initial data shows excellent drug-like potential in terms of *in vitro* potency and selectivity to target, as well as *in vivo* availability in blood. This implies substantive potential for the development of a cannabinoid-based medicine that could be taken at home as a tablet.

Led by a highly qualified and industry-leading Board and Management team (see separate sheet) OCTP has begun its first clinical trial within just 6 years of the Company's inception and just 2 years from its IPO. It plans to have its first medicine on the market with another 4 years. The global pain market is currently valued at £59.5bn and by first launch it is expected to grow to £74.4bn.

To find out further information or to see the Company presentation please visit the Company website at [www.oxcantech.com](http://www.oxcantech.com)

**ENDS**

***Press pack Company backgrounder posted 27 July 2023***