

Eutilex

(Not Listed/Not Rated)

An immunotherapy developer with robust technologies

- A biotech firm specializing in next-generation immunotherapies
- Three differentiated platform technologies: T-cell therapy, antibody therapy, and CAR-T therapy

A biotech firm specializing in next-generation immunotherapies

Eutilex, a biotech firm specializing in the development of next-generation immunotherapies, is set to go public on the KOSDAQ on December 26th. The company has several key technologies, including an autologous T-cell therapy platform, an antibody therapy (immune checkpoint activator) platform, and a CAR-T cell therapy platform. Its most advanced candidate is EBViNT, a treatment for NK/T-cell lymphoma (currently in phase 2).

The IPO price range has been set at W38,000 to W50,000, implying a market value of W302.4bn to W397.8bn (including unexercised stock options). The company plans to raise W27.6bn to W36.4bn in the IPO, most of which will be used for R&D and working capital.

Three differentiated platform technologies

1) Autologous T-cell therapy

Eutilex's autologous T-cell therapy platform works by separating cancer-specific T-cells and reinjecting them into patients. After isolating immune cells from a cancer patient's blood, peptides from target cancer antigens are added to induce 4-1BB-expressing T-cells. These cells are then selectively separated using antibodies that bind to 4-1BB, mass produced, and re-infused into the patient.

The technology reportedly has several advantages. First, it could be highly effective, as it only isolates T-cells of a specific cancer. Second, by modifying cancer antigens in the manufacturing process, it can create a variety of specific T-cells, making it easier to expand indications. Lastly, it provides safer treatment through the use of autologous T-cells.

The company's T-cell pipeline includes EBViNT (NK/T-cell lymphoma treatment), WTiNT (glioblastoma treatment), and TERTiNT (non-small cell lung cancer/breast cancer treatment). Among them, EBViNT is the most advanced candidate.

In a phase 1 study involving eight patients, EBViNT showed an objective response rate (ORR) of 50%, and two of the study's NK/T-cell lymphoma patients experienced complete remission (CR). The company is currently conducting a domestic phase 2 study on the treatment of NK/T-cell lymphoma and is working toward early commercialization after the study's completion.

FY (Dec.)	2015	2016	2017	2018E	2019E
Revenue (Wbn)	-	-	0.133	0.379	26.229
OP (Wbn)	-0.914	-5.178	-9.816	-14.167	-7.520
OP margin (%)	-	-	-	-	-
NP (Wbn)	-0.849	-5.114	-9.594	-13.754	-6.490
EPS (W)	-2,107	-1,085	-1,752	-1,729	-816
ROE (%)	-	-	-	-	-
P/E (x)	-	-	-	-	-
P/B (x)	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend yield (%)	-	-	-	-	-

Note: All figures are based on consolidated K-IFRS; NP refers to net profit attributable to controlling interests

Source: Company data and estimates

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2) Antibody therapy (immune checkpoint activator)

Eutilex's antibody therapies act as immune checkpoint activators, which stimulate receptors that activate T-cells to treat cancer. The company has discovered 4-1BB and AITR antibodies, which stimulate killer T-cells. EU101 is the antibody that binds to 4-1BB, and EU102 is the antibody that binds to AITR.

EU101, which stimulates and increases the number of killer T-cells, showed stronger efficacy than Merck's immune checkpoint inhibitor Keytruda in a preclinical study. In September 2017, Eutilex licensed out the Chinese rights to EU101 to Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceutical for US\$8.5mn. Separately, Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceutical acquired a W30bn stake in the company.

EU102 converts regulatory T-cells into effector T-cells to treat cancer. In a preclinical study, EU102 demonstrated a bigger tumor size reduction than Keytruda based on the same dosage.

The 4-1BB and AITR antibodies are in line with recent moves by big pharmaceutical firms (including Pfizer, Merck, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Novartis) to develop immune checkpoint activators, and they are expected to create synergies with immune checkpoint inhibitors.

3) CAR-T therapy

Existing CAR-T therapies like Novartis's Kymriah and Gilead's Yescarta, as well as most other CAR-T therapies currently in development, target CD19 antigens of cancer cells. Because CD19 antigens are expressed in both cancer and normal cells, CD19-targeted CAR-T therapies often cause side effects. Eutilex's CAR-T therapy could have fewer side effects, as it targets HLA-DR, which is overexpressed in cancer cells. Compared to CD19-targeted CAR-T therapies, the company's CAR-T therapy has shown a higher B-cell survival rate and lower cytokine release.

Table 1. Eutilex's pipeline

Category	Candidate	Indication	Phase	Location
T-cell therapy	EBViNT	NK/T-cell lymphoma	Phase 2	Korea, US
	WTiNT	Glioblastoma	Phase 1	US
	TERTiNT	NSCLC, breast cancer	Investigator-initiated trial	US
Antibody	EU101	Anti-cancer	Preclinical	Korea
	EU102	Anti-cancer	Preclinical	Korea
	Bispecific antibody		Preclinical	Korea
CAR-T	MVR CAR-T	DLBCL	Preclinical	Korea
	Solid tumor CAR-T	Solid tumor	Discovery	Korea

Source: Company data, Mirae Asset Daewoo Research

Table 2. Eutilex's earnings and forecasts

(Wmn)

	2017	2018E	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E
Revenue	133	379	26,229	25,003	31,185	62,893
Product sales					385	24,208
Royalties		379	26,229	25,003	30,800	38,685
Operating profit	-9,817	-14,167	-7,520	-25,776	-1,553	32,773
Pretax profit	-9,593	-13,754	-6,490	-24,729	88	35,039
Net profit	-9,593	-13,754	-6,490	-24,729	88	35,039

Source: DART, company data

APPENDIX 1

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