



World Cancer Day : IRE ELiT wants to encourage the research and development of radiopharmaceuticals applications for cancer imaging

February 4, 2020, Fleurus (Belgium) - IRE ELiT, one of the two worlds producers of Gallium-68 (Ga-68) radiopharmaceutical generators, is expanding its range with a Ga-68 generator specifically designed for preclinical research of new radiopharmaceuticals. At the preclinical stage, Ga-68 generators are mainly used in oncology for PET (positron emission tomography) diagnostic imaging to determine the number and aggressiveness of tumors and metastases.

Today, radiopharmaceuticals combining a Ga-68-labelled carrier molecule are already approved and many others are in the final stages of development. Access to Ga-68 generators has fundamentally changed the management of patients suffering from neuroendocrine cancers, which are particularly difficult to detect at an early stage. The results of ongoing clinical studies give the same hope for patients with recurrent prostate cancer, thanks to more precise diagnoses.

To encourage the research and development of other radiopharmaceuticals, IRE ELiT now offers to all research players, such as hospitals, university laboratories, research centers and healthcare manufacturers, **a research generator dedicated to preclinical activities**, i.e. the early stages of development before human clinical trials. This generator has the same level of quality and reliability as the generator authorized for clinical activities. However, in order to meet the needs of research teams, it will offer activities lower than those required for routine examinations at more accessible prices.

IRE ELiT's line of generators is therefore expanding, since **Galli RD** is being added to the radiopharmaceutical generators approved in Europe and in the US, as well as the **Galli Demo**, a demonstration model with no activity for team training. **Galli RD is rapidly available to users - within a maximum of 8 weeks - thanks to an increase in IRE ELiT's production capacity to meet the needs of the market.**

IRE ELiT's Strategic Director, Jean Bonnet, said *"We want to make our contribution throughout the life cycle of radiopharmaceutical products, from their discovery to clinical application, by facilitating access to Ga-68 for research teams, which testify IRE ELiT's commitment to researchers and clinicians"*.

About IRE and IRE ELiT

IRE, *Institut National des Radioéléments*, is a public interest foundation whose main activity is to produce radioisotopes for diagnosis and therapy in nuclear medicine. IRE is the world's leader in Molybdenum-99 production, the 'parent' isotope of metastable Technetium-99, and the most used isotope in nuclear medicine for many examinations (heart, bones, lungs, thyroid gland, brains, kidneys, etc.).



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Besides its production activities, IRE contributes to protecting and monitoring the environment thanks to its many services: measurement of radioactivity in various samples, radiological characterisation of contaminated waste and elements, technical consultancy and support in the radiological and nuclear fields. IRE ELiT is the innovation subsidiary of IRE which was created in 2010 in order to develop radiopharmaceuticals used in imaging and treatment of some cancers as well as for palliative care. In 2018, IRE ELiT allocated 18% of its turnover to R&D. This percentage is steadily growing ever since the company was created. IRE and IRE ELiT employ 240 people at the moment. More info on www.ire.eu

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