

Medical Device Maker AcelRx Pharma Registers For IPO

November 15, 2010 - VentureWire

By Joan E. Solsman
11/15/2010 - Redwood City, Calif. -

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals Inc., a painkiller-device company, registered for an initial public offering aimed at helping fund late-stage development of its lead product candidate.

The company, which makes treatment systems for types of sudden pain, will use the money from the IPO, estimated at as much as \$86.3 million, to help fund ARX-01 or the Sufentanil NanoTab PCA System. The device is meant to solve problems with patient controlled pain-killers administered through an intravenous line after operations.

AcelRx said ARX-01 is a handheld patient-controlled device that delivers sufentanil, a type of opioid, in a tablet that can be placed under the tongue.

The company is also developing drugs for cancer pain and mild sedation for painful procedures in doctors' offices.

It will also use the money to pay for working capital and general corporate purposes.

It proposed listing on the Nasdaq Global Market under the ticker ACRX.

Like many development stage drug companies, AcelRx is unprofitable. Without any streams of revenue, its loss narrowed in the first nine months of 2010 because of fewer operating expenses.

According to VentureWire archives, the company has raised more than \$75 million in equity and debt from Alta Partners, Kaiser Permanente Ventures, Pinnacle Ventures, Skyline Ventures and Three Arch Partners.

Three Arch owns 43.0% of company shares, according to an SEC filing; Skyline owns 22.4%; and Alta owns 19.7%.

<http://www.acelrx.com>