

Celgene acquiring cancer drug firm Juno Therapeutics for \$9 bn

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US biotech firm Celgene on Monday announced a deal to acquire the biopharmaceutical company Juno Therapeutics for \$9 billion or \$87 per share.

The Seattle-based Juno is a leader in developing treatments for incurable blood cancers such as lymphoma, Celgene CEO Mark J. Alles said in a statement.

"Juno's advanced cellular immunotherapy portfolio and research capabilities strengthen Celgene's global leadership in hematology and adds new drivers for growth beyond 2020," Alles said.

One Juno lymphoma <u>treatment</u> is expected to receive regulatory approval next year, with potential global sales of about \$3 billion, the statement said.

The merger pushes Celgene deeper into cancer treatments. This month, it acquired the blood disease biotech firm Impact Biomedicines for \$7 billion.

With its best-selling multiple myeloma drug Revlimid soon to face competition from generics, Celgene is diversifying to offset a potential dip in revenues.

Celgene has itself been rumored to be a takeover target. Analysts say it could prove enticing for the drug giant Pfizer, which may hope to boost



revenues in the near term.

Celgene fell 1.2 percent in mid-morning trading on Monday while Juno gained 26.7 percent to just under the acquisition price of \$87 per share.

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