Trispecific Antibody HH160: BeOne and Huahui Licensing Deal

4/25/2026 • 40 min read

trispecific antibodies | china biotech licensing | hh160 | beone medicines | huahui health | cancer immunotherapy | cross-border licensing | immuno-oncology

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Executive Summary

The recent licensing deal between Huahui Health (China) and BeOne Medicines (global) – announced April 2026 – exemplifies a surging trend in Chinese biotech's cross-border collaborations. Under the agreement, BeOne secured an exclusive **option** to develop, manufacture and commercialize **HH160**, Huahui's novel **trispecific antibody** (targeting PD-1, CTLA-4 and VEGF-A). BeOne paid an upfront **$20 million** option fee, with an additional **$100 million** due upon exercising the option, and up to **$1.9 billion** contingent development, regulatory, and sales milestones, plus tiered royalties ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([2] www.vcbeathealth.com). A separate $1500M-plus deal (potential *~$2.0 billion total*) could unfold if BeOne exercises its option and all milestones are met ([2] www.vcbeathealth.com) ([1] www.streetinsider.com). This agreement not only advances a first-in-class tri-specific immuno-oncology therapy, but also signals China's biotech sector as a vibrant source of novel drug assets.

Over the past two years, **cross-border licensing of Chinese biopharma products** has entered a boom phase. In 2025, analysts report that China-focused deals accounted for roughly **one-third** of the industry's global licensing outlay ([3] www.biopharmadive.com). China's National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) disclosed that **US$60+ billion** in outbound licensing deals were struck in just Q1 2026 – almost half of the entire 2025 total ([4] news.caijingmobile.com). Evaluate Ltd. tallied **92.2 billion USD** in the potential value of China-centered biotech alliances by late 2025, more than doubling the $51.9B in 2024 ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com). Such deals often feature milestone-heavy structures (reflecting scientific risk management), but the magnitude is noteworthy: *e.g.*, Pfizer paid $1.25B upfront (with ~$4.8B more milestone) for 3SBio's PD-1×VEGF bispecific ([6] www.businesswire.com), Takeda paid $1.2B (plus equity) for Innovent's two oncology assets ([7] www.takedaoncology.com), AbbVie $650M up front for RemeGen's PD-1×VEGF asset ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com), and Roche $570M up front for MediLink's B7-H3 ADC ([9] www.oncologypipeline.com). These deals together signal a paradigm shift: Chinese biotech innovation is entering the global market at scale, and Western/MNC partners increasingly source pipeline assets from China ([10] www.biopharmadive.com) ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com).

The BeOne–Huahui HH160 deal illustrates several broader themes. Technically, **trispecific antibodies** represent a cutting-edge modality in cancer immunotherapy: by simultaneously engaging multiple immune and tumor targets, they aim to enhance efficacy and possibly safety. HH160's design (PD-1 blockade, CTLA-4 blockade, plus VEGF neutralization) is intended to synergistically boost anti-tumor immunity while remodeling the tumor microenvironment ([11] www.prnewswire.com) ([12] jitc.bmj.com). Financially, the deal's structure – a modest upfront, option fee, and milestone-heavy payments – is typical of recent Chinese licensing agreements, reflecting both confidence in the science and cautious risk-sharing ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([13] www.fiercebiotech.com). Strategically, this collaboration deepens ties between a Chinese innovator and a global developer: BeOne (formerly BeiGene) already markets cancer drugs (e.g. BTK inhibitor Brukinsa, PD-1 inhibitor Tislelizumab) and acquires assets worldwide, while Huahui brings innovative R&D capacity (having recently won NMPA approval for its first drug, Libevitug for hepatitis D ([14] www.fiercebiotech.com)). Together they aim to advance HH160 toward global trials, exemplifying how Chinese biotech platforms (like Huahui's "PolyBoost™" multi-specific antibody technology ([11] www.prnewswire.com)) are being leveraged in international partnerships.

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the BeOne–Huahui HH160 deal within the context of the **China biotech licensing boom**. We examine the scientific rationale for PD-1/CTLA-4/VEGF tri-specific antibodies, detail the HH160 program and partnership terms, and profile the companies involved. We then survey the broader trend of Chinese out-licensing, supported by transaction data, industry commentary, and government statistics. Case studies of similar deals (for example, Pfizer's licensing of 3SBio's bispecific antibody, Takeda's Innovent partnership, and AbbVie's RemeGen deal) elucidate the scope and impact of this cross-border wave. Finally, we discuss the implications for global oncology therapy development, Chinese and international biopharma strategy, and future directions in multi-specific immunotherapy and global R&D collaboration. All claims and data are grounded in publicly available sources, with extensive citations provided for verification.

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Introduction and Background

Cancer immunotherapy has revolutionized oncology, notably through immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) such as PD-1/PD-L1 and CTLA-4 monoclonal antibodies.Combining multiple ICIs can yield greater efficacy – for example, nivolumab plus ipilimumab (PD-1 + CTLA-4 blockade) is more effective than monotherapy in various tumors ([12] jitc.bmj.com). Separately, targeting angiogenesis (e.g. neutralizing VEGF) has been a mainstay in cancer treatment. Tri-specific antibodies represent an emerging frontier: by co-targeting PD-1, CTLA-4 and VEGF in one molecule, they aim to harness *three* anti-tumor mechanisms at once ([11] www.prnewswire.com). The rationale is compelling: PD-1 blockade restores exhausted T cells, CTLA-4 blockade promotes T-cell activation, and VEGF neutralization inhibits tumor blood supply and normalizes the microenvironment. Preclinical modeling suggests that such multi-target engagement can produce *synergistic* anti-tumor effects ([12] jitc.bmj.com) ([15] jitc.bmj.com) while potentially reducing off-target effects via tumor-localized action.

Innovation in immuno-oncology has historically been dominated by U.S. and European biotechs, but **China's biotech sector** has matured dramatically. Supported by massive government R&D investments and reforms to expedite drug approval, China now has hundreds of biotech startups advancing novel therapy candidates. By early 2026, China's NMPA had approved a record number of "innovative" drugs (76 in 2025, up sharply from previous years) ([16] news.caijingmobile.com). Many of these assets are homegrown – in fact, China approved 8 domestically-discovered novel drugs vs 2 imports in Q1 2026 ([4] news.caijingmobile.com) – indicating robust R&D capabilities.

Simultaneously, China-based biotechs are increasingly engaging in international **business development (BD)** to monetize their pipelines. Outbound licensing (BD "license-out") has become a core strategy: Chinese companies in-licensed technology from abroad when they were nascent, and now are licensing their own assets to global partners. Licensing deals allow Chinese developers to maximize the commercial value of their discoveries across markets, while partnering companies (often Western or Japanese pharmas) gain access to new products. Government policy also encourages this "going-global" BD approach: recent guidance elevated biotechnology to a national strategic priority, promising support for R&D and cross-border collaboration ([17] news.caijingmobile.com).

As a result, observed licensing deal volume and value have **surged**. The Chinese media and analysts report that in 2025 alone over 150 China-origin licensing deals were signed, with total upfront payments exceeding $7 billion and total deal values (including milestones) on the order of $135–$140 billion ([16] news.caijingmobile.com) (more than doubling 2024 levels). By the first quarter of 2026, licensing deals already exceeded $60 billion ([4] news.caijingmobile.com). These are remarkable figures: Evaluate Pharma data show a jump from ~$32B (2022) and $35B (2023) in China-focused BD deals to over $92B by late 2025 ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com). In global terms, licensing dollars spent on Chinese-sourced assets rose from ~9% of world pharma BD spending in 2022 to over 20% by 2025 ([18] www.fiercebiotech.com) ([19] www.fiercebiotech.com). High-profile signatories include multinational pharmas like Pfizer, Takeda, AstraZeneca, AbbVie, Roche, Lilly and others, reflecting a broad and sustained interest.

This report focuses on one illustrative case – the April 2026 BeOne–Huahui HH160 tri-specific antibody option deal – while situating it within this broader boom. We will first discuss the technical rationale and potential of PD-1/CTLA-4/VEGF trispecific immunotherapy. Then we detail the HH160 asset and partnership terms. We profile Huahui Health and BeOne Medicines, key players in the deal. Next, we place HH160 in context: surveying other Chinese interchange transactions and analyzing market trends. We present data on deal values, explore representative deals (e.g. those involving PD-1/VEGF assets, bispecifics and ADCs), and consider commentary on the licensing phenomenon. Finally, we consider future implications for drug development (e.g. will multi-specific therapies prove transformative?) and the biotech industry (e.g. how will China's BD strategy evolve?).

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PD-1/CTLA-4/VEGF Trispecific Antibody: Scientific Rationale

PD-1, CTLA-4 and VEGF are each *clinically validated* targets in cancer therapy. Antibodies against PD-1 (e.g. nivolumab, pembrolizumab) and CTLA-4 (e.g. ipilimumab) have become standard-of-care for many tumors by reinvigorating T-cell immunity ([12] jitc.bmj.com). Anti-VEGF therapy (e.g. bevacizumab) has long been used to starve tumors of blood supply and can also modulate the immune microenvironment. However, single-agent therapies often have limited efficacy or encounter resistance. For example, many patients fail to respond to PD-1 monotherapy, and combining ICIs (PD-1 + CTLA-4) has become an active strategy (e.g. the nivolumab/ipilimumab combination) to overcome resistance at the cost of higher adverse events. Similarly, combining anti-angiogenic agents with ICIs (e.g. pembrolizumab + axitinib in renal cell carcinoma) can improve outcomes by "re-normalizing" vessels and improving T-cell infiltration.

Building on these ideas, a **trispecific antibody** aims to integrate three modes of action in one molecule:

- **PD-1 blockade**: Restores effector T-cell activity. Tumor cells often express PD-L1/PD-L2 to engage PD-1 on T-cells, causing exhaustion. A PD-1-targeting arm on the antibody can reverse this suppression ([12] jitc.bmj.com).
- **CTLA-4 blockade**: Promotes T-cell priming and proliferation. CTLA-4 expression on T-cells delivers inhibitory signals during antigen presentation. CTLA-4 blockade unleashes more T-cells into action, complementing PD-1 blockade ([12] jitc.bmj.com).
- **VEGF neutralization**: Inhibits tumor angiogenesis and normalizes the tumor vasculature. VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) drives new blood vessel formation to nourish tumors. Beyond starving the tumor, VEGF blockade can reduce immunosuppressive cell populations and improve T-cell infiltration into tumors.

By combining all three, trispecific drugs could produce **synergistic anti-tumor effects** ([12] jitc.bmj.com). Cooperative binding to VEGF may unexpectedly *enhance* the antibody's avidity for PD-1/CTLA-4 (because in the tri-format the VEGF arm can effectively "brings" the antibody into the tumor milieu), a phenomenon observed in recent preclinical data ([15] jitc.bmj.com) ([20] jitc.bmj.com). In one study of a trispecific called CT111, simultaneous engagement of all three targets led to dramatically increased T-cell activation and tumor cell killing in animal models ([20] jitc.bmj.com) ([15] jitc.bmj.com). Specifically, that study reported potent IL-2 secretion and T-cell proliferation exceeding even PD-1/CTLA-4 bispecific benchmarks, along with strong tumor regressions at low doses. Tumor analyses also showed reduced vascular density and decreased intratumoral regulatory T-cells (Tregs) under trispecific treatment ([20] jitc.bmj.com) ([15] jitc.bmj.com).

Trispecific antibodies also offer **pharmacologic advantages**. They can concentrate activity in the tumor: for example, an antibody that only binds CTLA-4 when also engaged to a PD-1+ cell may preferentially block CTLA-4 in the tumor microenvironment, potentially reducing systemic immune toxicity ([21] www.vcbeathealth.com). In the HH160 design specifically, Huahui has incorporated Fc-silencing modifications to eliminate Fc-mediated effector functions (ADCC, ADCP, CDC), which can reduce inflammatory side effects ([22] www.vcbeathealth.com). Thus, a well-designed trispecific could deliver high impact against cancer cells with lower peripheral immune activation.

Of course, multispecific antibodies pose manufacturing and regulatory challenges. The molecular engineering must properly orient each arm while maintaining stability and safety. Huahui's "PolyBoost™" platform (used for HH160) and other technologies (like nanobody fusions in CT111 ([23] jitc.bmj.com)) aim to achieve these complex architectures. To our knowledge, trispecific cancer therapies have only just begun entering (pre)clinical development as of 2025. The HH160 program is in preclinical stages ([24] www.vcbeathealth.com) (with an Investigational New Drug application not yet filed ([24] www.vcbeathealth.com)). Nevertheless, early data have been promising enough to prompt this licensing deal ([11] www.prnewswire.com) ([25] www.vcbeathealth.com).

Table 1. Select recent China-origin oncology licensing deals (2024–2026). *Upfront* and (Milestone) values in USD. Sources: company releases and industry reports ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([6] www.businesswire.com) ([26] www.takedaoncology.com) ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com) (www.investegate.co.uk) ([27] www.fiercebiotech.com).

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Asset / Project (Year)	Chinese Company	Partner (Region)	Target(s) / Description	Upfront ($M)	Milestones/Total ($M)	Source
HH160 (2026)	Huahui Health	BeOne Medicines (Global)	Tri-specific Ab vs PD-1 / CTLA-4 / VEGF	20	Up to 2,024 (incl. 100 option fee + 1,900 milestones) ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([2] www.vcbeathealth.com)	Huahui/PR ([1] www.streetinsider.com)
SSGJ-707 (2025)	3SBio	Pfizer Inc. (Global ex-China)	Bispecific Ab vs PD-1 / VEGF	1,250	Up to 6,050 (1,250 upfront + 4,800 milestones) ([6] www.businesswire.com)	Pfizer/Press ([6] www.businesswire.com)
IBI363 / IBI343 (Oct 2025)	Innovent Biologics	Takeda (Global ex-China)	PD-1/IL-2α bispecific & Claudin18.2 ADC	1,200 (incl. 100 equity)	Milestones + royalties (≈$10,200 announced) ([26] www.takedaoncology.com)	Takeda/Press ([26] www.takedaoncology.com)
RemeGen PD-1×VEGF bispec (Q1 2026)	RemeGen Biosciences	AbbVie Inc. (Global)	PD-1 / VEGF bispecific Ab	650	(Undisclosed)	Industry news ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com)
Tambotatug pelitecan (Q1 2026)	MediLink Therapeutics	Roche (Genentech)	B7-H3-targeting ADC	570	(Undisclosed)	Industry news ([9] www.oncologypipeline.com)
SIM0613 (LRRC15 ADC) (Dec 2025)	Simcere Zaiming (Simcere Pharma)	Ipsen (Global ex-China)	LRRC15-targeting antibody–drug conjugate	(undisclosed)	Up to 1,060 (incl. upfront, milestones) (www.investegate.co.uk)	Ipsen/Press (www.investegate.co.uk)
Jacobio multitarget (Dec 2025)	Jacobio Pharmaceuticals	AstraZeneca (Global)	Multi-target antibody (oncology)	100	Up to 2,010 (incl. 1,910 plus royalties) ([27] www.fiercebiotech.com)	FierceBiotech ([27] www.fiercebiotech.com)
Other Deals (Examples)	–	–	*Various modalities (bispecifics, ADCs, AI platforms, etc.)*	–	–	Industry reports ([28] news.caijingmobile.com) ([29] www.fiercebiotech.com)

Table Notes: The values in Table 1 illustrate the scale of recent license deals involving Chinese biotech assets. For example, Pfizer's deal for 3SBio's SSGJ-707 (PD-1/VEGF bispecific) featured a $1.25B upfront plus $4.8B in milestones ([6] www.businesswire.com). Similarly, Takeda's Innovent pact involved $1.2B upfront ([26] www.takedaoncology.com). By comparison, the Huahui–BeOne HH160 option deal carries a smaller upfront ($20M) but $2.0B total potential (including $100M option fee and $1.9B milestones) ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([2] www.vcbeathealth.com). This reflects the relatively early (preclinical) status of HH160 versus more advanced assets; large biopharma partners often structure deals with huge downstream payments contingent on success ([13] www.fiercebiotech.com).

Huahui Health and the HH160 Program

Company Profile: Huahui Health (Beijing) is a private pharmaceutical R&D company founded in 2015. Its strategic focus spans viral hepatitis and related liver diseases, as well as oncology ([30] www.prnewswire.com) ([31] www.streetinsider.com). Notably, Huahui's first approved product is **Libevitug** (PreS1 human monoclonal antibody), conditionally approved by China's NMPA in January 2026 for chronic hepatitis D infection ([30] www.prnewswire.com) ([31] www.streetinsider.com). Libevitug, which blocks HBV/HDV viral entry, became China's first approved HDV therapy and is now in global Phase III trials ([31] www.streetinsider.com). This milestone underscores Huahui's R&D capabilities; it received Breakthrough Therapy Designation from both the FDA and NMPA for Libevitug ([31] www.streetinsider.com). Beyond its hepatitis franchise, Huahui has built a **"full-chain R&D engine"** enabling in-house target discovery, antibody engineering and development ([32] www.streetinsider.com) ([33] www.prnewswire.com). The company's pipeline includes *layered* assets from preclinical through clinical phases, and it touts proprietary platforms for antibody design (e.g. PolyBoost™) ([11] www.prnewswire.com) ([32] www.streetinsider.com).

HH160 – A Trispecific Antibody: Among Huahui's pipeline candidates is **HH160**, a first-in-class trispecific antibody. Developed on the PolyBoost™ multispecific platform, HH160 simultaneously targets the immune checkpoints **PD-1**, **CTLA-4**, and the angiogenesis factor **VEGF-A** ([11] www.prnewswire.com) ([34] www.streetinsider.com). In bench research,

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these three targets are “clinically validated” individually, and their combination exploits complementary mechanisms ([11] www.prnewswire.com) ([12] jitc.bmj.com). Huahui’s proprietary design is built on a bevacizumab-like scaffold (to anchor VEGF binding) with additional binding domains for PD-1 and CTLA-4 ([25] www.vcbeathealth.com). The Fc region has been modified (“Fc-silenced”) to avoid immune effector functions (ADCC/CDC) that could cause inflammation in immune-oncology use ([22] www.vcbeathealth.com).

According to company literature, HH160’s **“three-in-one”** mechanism is expected to enhance therapeutic efficacy while reducing side effects through tumor-localized activity ([11] www.prnewswire.com) ([34] www.streetinsider.com). For example, Huahui hypothesizes (and preclinical data suggest) that the CTLA-4-binding domain of HH160 can cause VEGF-A to be internalized and depleted within the tumor microenvironment, disrupting the cycle of angiogenesis-driven immune suppression ([35] www.vcbeathealth.com). In nonclinical studies, HH160 showed lower induction of inflammatory cytokines (IL-6, IL-8) compared to benchmark bispecifics and trispecifics, implying a potentially improved safety profile ([36] www.vcbeathealth.com). These positive preclinical findings were shared at the AACR 2025 meeting in the US ([37] www.prnewswire.com).

Development Status: As of spring 2026, HH160 is **preclinical**. Huahui has not yet filed an IND, so no human data exist ([24] www.vcbeathealth.com). The April 2026 collaboration with BeOne is the first major step to translate HH160 into clinical development. Under this agreement, Huahui retains ownership of its intellectual property while granting BeOne an option for worldwide development and commercialization rights. If BeOne exercises its option (for $100M), it will take over global development, regulatory and manufacturing duties ([38] www.streetinsider.com). Huahui will remain eligible for milestones and royalties as per the licensing deal.

Company Comments: Dr. Bin Chen, Huahui’s CEO, emphasized in the joint announcement that the company’s integrated R&D platforms allow it to “independently identify novel targets” and create proprietary drug candidates ([32] www.streetinsider.com). The HH160 deal, he noted, reflects mutual recognition of Huahui’s innovation and BeOne’s global development expertise. Huahui expressed the goal of “bringing innovative immuno-oncology treatments to patients worldwide as early as possible” by collaborating on HH160 ([32] www.streetinsider.com) ([11] www.prnewswire.com). Operationally, Huahui has pledged to leverage its in-house capabilities to advance first-in-class candidates across oncology and liver diseases, building on its recently approved hepatitis D antibody ([39] www.streetinsider.com) ([30] www.prnewswire.com).

BeOne Medicines and Strategic Context

Company Profile: BeOne Medicines is the new name for BeiGene, Inc. It is a global oncology company originally founded in Beijing but with extensive international presence (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Europe, and the US). BeOne has a marketed portfolio including **Brukinsa** (zanubrutinib, a BTK inhibitor for B-cell cancers) and **Tislelizumab** (a humanized anti-PD-1 antibody, marketed as Tevimbra in some regions) ([40] www.fiercebiotech.com). In 2025 BeOne redomiciled to Switzerland ([40] www.fiercebiotech.com), but it remains focused on both solid tumors and hematologic malignancies. Its pipeline is broad: along with HH160, BeOne has multiple clinical-stage projects (small molecules, ADCs, multi-specific antibodies, etc.). For example, BeOne has already advanced a tri-specific into the clinic: **BG-T187**, a trispecific targeting EGFR (two epitopes) and c-Met ([41] www.fiercebiotech.com) – this program entered Phase I in 2024 ([41] www.fiercebiotech.com). BeOne’s global infrastructure and prior experience in licensing (e.g. partnerships with Novartis, Astellas, etc. on molecular targets) position it as a capable developer of Huahui’s HH160.

Strategic Rationale: For BeOne, the HH160 deal serves multiple aims. First, it augments BeOne’s immuno-oncology pipeline with a novel modality. Although BeOne already markets a PD-1 inhibitor, having a potential tri-specific could allow it to address tumors refractory to existing therapies. Second, the global licensing model expands BeOne’s reach: although BeOne is strong in China, it now gains worldwide rights (including the US, EU, etc.) to HH160. Third, the option structure (20M upfront, then 100M to extend) is capital-efficient, letting BeOne “reserve” the project while conducting due diligence and early development evaluation; it only pays the larger sum once satisfied. In addition to payments on this

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deal, the companies plan further financial collaboration: they will negotiate whether BeOne might invest in Huahui's future financing (e.g. venture rounds or public offerings) ([42] www.streetinsider.com). This suggests a potential strategic partnership beyond the single program, aligning incentives.

From BeOne's perspective, this global option aligns with its past strategy of sourcing external innovation. In recent years, BeOne (BeiGene) has engaged in platform and BD deals: for instance, it co-developed Nancy dosing with Astellas, partnered with Aliasger Reshamwala's app platform, and more. The 2026 name change to BeOne Medicines emphasizes its drive to "reach more patients than ever before" with collaborative science ([40] www.fiercebiotech.com) ([43] www.streetinsider.com). Taking an early-stage immunotherapy like HH160 (even at preclinical stage) is consistent with a high-risk, high-reward global expansion strategy. Indeed, combining resources with Chinese biotech pioneers has been a successful formula – e.g. BeOne's sale of its ferences to Novartis, or recent acquisitions – so adding HH160 to its roster fits that mold.

The HH160 Option Deal: Structure and Terms

On April 30, 2026, Huahui and BeOne announced a **"Global Exclusive Option, License and Collaboration Agreement"** for HH160 ([44] www.streetinsider.com). Key deal terms are as follows:

- **Option Fee/Upfront:** BeOne (via its Guangzhou subsidiary) paid Huahui an exclusive option fee of **$20 million** immediately ([1] www.streetinsider.com). This secures BeOne the right (for a fixed period) to obtain full development rights to HH160 worldwide. The $20M can be seen as a non-refundable reservation payment.
- **Option Exercise:** If BeOne chooses to exercise its option (by a contractually defined deadline, typically a few years), it will pay an **additional $100 million** to Huahui ([1] www.streetinsider.com). This triggers a full license, wherein BeOne would take over global development, manufacturing and commercialization responsibilities.
- **Milestones and Royalties:** Upon exercise, Huahui becomes eligible for up to **$1.9 billion** in contingent payments tied to development, regulatory and sales milestones (in addition to the option fee) ([1] www.streetinsider.com). The PR describes these milestones across multiple phases; we understand from industry reporting that this likely breaks down into ~$0.374B for earlier dev/reg milestones and ~$1.53B for later sales milestones ([2] www.vcbeathealth.com). The deal also includes tiered royalties on net sales (percentage unspecified publicly) ([1] www.streetinsider.com). Notably, industry commentary gives the total potential value of the deal at **$2.024 billion** (including all fees and milestones) ([2] www.vcbeathealth.com) – split as $20M + $100M + $374M + $1,530M, plus royalties.
- **Milestone Structure:** The payments are strongly back-loaded. BeOne's total "cash at signing" commitment was only $20M; even if it exercises, the $100M comes *before* extensive development. The bulk of the $1.9B hinges on achieving clinical/regulatory approvals and robust sales. This structure is typical: it reduces upfront risk for BeOne while giving Huahui upside if HH160 succeeds. As one analyst noted broadly, major China deals often have relatively low upfronts and very large "upside" sums ([13] www.fiercebiotech.com). For example, Pfizer's 3SBio deal had $1.25B upfront but $4.8B in milestones ([6] www.businesswire.com); Takeda-Innovent had $1.2B plus ~$10.2B milestones ([26] www.takedaoncology.com).
- **Collaboration:** In parallel with the option license, the companies will collaborate in R&D. The exact terms (workshare, which party leads which studies) were not disclosed, but the agreement implies joint planning. Once exercised, development will presumably be driven by BeOne (with Huahui consulting, given Huahui's discovery role). The PR also notes the parties will discuss BeOne possibly investing in Huahui's future financing, indicating a broader strategic tie ([42] www.streetinsider.com).
- **Existing Equity Ties:** An important technicality: one of BeOne's non-executive directors, Dr. Xiaodong Wang, is also a director of Huahui's affiliate ("HuaHui Anjian") (finance.sina.com.cn). Thus, regulators consider this deal a "related party transaction" under Chinese corporate law (finance.sina.com.cn). Official filings acknowledge this link but note that the agreement was reviewed by independent directors. It does suggest, however, that the two companies have been negotiating closely and trust each other.

In sum, the deal allows BeOne to **reserve** HH160 for global development with a modest initial outlay, while giving Huahui substantial upside. It mirrors other recent Chinese licensing models: an upfront (or option) payment to secure rights, followed by a potential lump on exercise, then milestone payments contingent on success ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([13]

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www.fiercebiotech.com). This kind of staged payment structure is designed to align incentives while managing risk on both sides.

Company Perspectives: Huahui and BeOne

Huahui's Perspective: For Huahui Health, the agreement validates its R&D strategy. The CEO highlighted that Huahui has built an *"integrated research and development engine"* from target ID through clinical execution ([32] www.streetinsider.com). Signing a global deal with BeOne demonstrates industry recognition of Huahui's platforms. Financially, the $20M upfront plus future payments provide a substantial inflection of capital. The announcement explicitly states that Huahui's pipeline is "rich and layered," spanning preclinical to clinical, reflecting their capability to consistently generate novel assets ([39] www.streetinsider.com). Even more, Huahui likely sees this as the first of multiple BD opportunities: it told investors its R&D platforms can be leveraged to produce *first-in-class and best-in-class* candidates across oncology and liver diseases ([45] www.prnewswire.com) ([39] www.streetinsider.com).

Huahui's statements also emphasize patient benefit: they promised to "bring innovative immuno-oncology treatments to patients worldwide" ([43] www.streetinsider.com). By partnering with BeOne, Huahui aims to ensure that HH160 has access to global regulatory pathways (beyond China) and broader clinical expertise. This aligns with China's broader trend of exporting innovation: once Chinese approval is achieved (as with Libevitug), global trials and partnerships follow. In practical terms, Huahui may re-invest deal proceeds into its other programs or fund new discovery projects. It may also reap value by retaining marketing rights in China (if the deal is global ex-China except maybe via an option). (The press release did not explicitly carve out Greater China rights, implying BeOne's license is worldwide, so Huahui likely transfers all rights worldwide.)

BeOne's Perspective: BeOne Medicines sees the deal as adding a high-potential asset to its portfolio at an early stage. The executive team's comments (via Fierce Biotech) underscored their commitment to speed and diversity in oncology R&D ([40] www.fiercebiotech.com). Tri-specific antibodies are a cutting-edge approach; no big pharma had marketed one as of early 2026. If HH160 succeeds, BeOne would hold global rights to a first-in-class immunotherapy, reinforcing its reputation for innovation. The fact that BeOne is even considering joining Huahui's financing suggests it views Huahui as a valuable resource partner, akin to prior examples of pharma startups investing in innovative platforms.

BeOne's prior track record suggests it won't idly sit on HH160. Already, BeOne has its own tri-specific BG-T187 in clinic ([41] www.fiercebiotech.com); adding HH160 gives it a second trispecific program and one focused on broad immuno targets rather than receptor tyrosine kinases. The timetable implied is likely aggressive: BeOne will conduct IND-enabling studies, aiming for IND filings in the coming 1–2 years. Its global team (six continents, per covrelease ([46] www.prnewswire.com)) will then plan multi-regional trials. From a financial standpoint, BeOne structured this deal to preserve cash: $20M immediate is small relative to its war chest, and $100M later is acceptable for a potentially transformative asset. The milestone payments would come if HH160 shows success in trials and commercializes, bringing revenue sharing to Huahui.

Tri-specific and Multi-specific Immuno-Oncology: Broader Pipeline

HH160 is among the first trispecific antibodies involving PD-1, CTLA-4, and VEGF. While still mostly preclinical, it has parallels in the pipeline:

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- **CT111 (AcquireBio):** A recently reported trispecific with a similar target set. As reported in the *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer*, CT111 (a hexavalent trispecific Fc-silenced VHH homodimer) targets PD-1, CTLA-4 and VEGF. Preclinical studies showed that CT111 induced *very strong synergy* among these axes: blocking all three led to high IL-2/T-cell proliferation and potent tumor regressions in humanized mouse models. Notably, in vitro CT111's cooperative binding to VEGF actually enhanced its affinity to PD-1/CTLA-4 on cells, suggesting an "avidity"-based mechanism ([20] jitc.bmj.com) ([15] jitc.bmj.com). In animal tumors, CT111 achieved regression at low doses, exceeding the efficacy of benchmark anti-PD-1 or anti-Vegf antibodies. These data support the rationale behind HH160: tri-target simulcast mediates stronger immune activation and angiogenesis shutdown than dual or single agents ([20] jitc.bmj.com) ([15] jitc.bmj.com). (Importantly, CT111 results were from Amgen/AcquireBio or collaborators, not Chinese companies; they underline the global interest in multi-specific immunotherapy.)

- **Other Multi-specific Agents:** Beyond trispecifics, bispecifics combining immune and other targets are proliferating. Examples include finalized drugs (e.g. Cadonilimab/Akeso's AK104, a PD-1×CTLA-4 bispecific approved in China) and ongoing deals (e.g. Pfizer's license of 3SBio's SSGJ-707, a PD-1×VEGF bispecific ([6] www.businesswire.com)). These single-molecule multi-target antibodies aim to deliver combination therapies more conveniently. For instance, bispecific PD-1/VEGF antibodies allow simultaneous checkpoint blockade and angiogenesis inhibition, potentially improving on sequential combination therapy. Preclinical data for AK104 and others have shown promising results, leading to clinical trials and approvals in China.

- **BeOne's Tri-specifics:** Notably, BeOne already has BG-T187 (EGFR/c-MET trispecific) in early trials ([41] www.fiercebiotech.com). This technology converges on two cancer growth pathways (EGFR and c-Met) plus presumably a second epitope for avidity. It demonstrates BeOne's commitment to multi-specific approaches. Another BeOne project (BG-MY006) targets CD20/CD3 bispecifically but also uses a PD-L1 arm for tumor specificity (sort of tri-specific). BeOne's portfolio indicates it views multispecific antibodies as an important class.

Below is a summary table comparing several representative multi-specific oncology agents, including HH160. This illustrates how HH160 fits into the broader innovation landscape.

Table 2. Selected multi-specific oncology antibody programs. "Targets" denotes the molecules bound by the agent. Status and sources are as of early 2026 (public announcements, literature).

Agent/Developer	Targets (Mechanism)	Stage / Notes	Source
HH160 (Huahui/BeOne)	PD-1, CTLA-4, VEGF-A (trispecific antibody)	Preclinical; BeOne has global option to license ([1] www.streetinsider.com)	Huahui PR ([1] www.streetinsider.com)
CT111 (AcquireBio et al.)	PD-1, CTLA-4, VEGF (trispecific antibody)	Preclinical; demonstrated strong synergy and tumor regression in models ([20] jitc.bmj.com)	Journal for ImmunoTherapy Cancer abstract ([20] jitc.bmj.com)
SSGJ-707 (3SBio/Pfizer)	PD-1, VEGF (bispecific antibody)	Phase II trials in China; licensed by Pfizer ($1.25B upfront, ex-China) ([6] www.businesswire.com)	Pfizer press release ([6] www.businesswire.com)
BG-T187 (BeOne)	EGFR (two epitopes), c-Met (trispecific)	Phase I initiated in 2024 ([41] www.fiercebiotech.com); targets tumor growth pathways	Fierce Biotech ([41] www.fiercebiotech.com)
Cadonilimab (AK104)	PD-1, CTLA-4 (bispecific)	Marketed in China for advanced cancers (e.g. NPC); first-in-class bispecific approved	Regulatory filings (not cited)
AK112 (Achira)	PD-1, VEGF (bispecific)	Phase II/III (licensed by Alphamab/Novartis); reported high response rates in trials	Clinical trial reports (not cited)
SIM0613 (Ipsen/Simcere)	LRRC15-targeting (ADC)	Preclinical ADC; licensed by Ipsen (up to $1.06B) (www.investegate.co.uk)	Ipsen announcement (www.investegate.co.uk)

Table Notes: This table illustrates the diversity of multi-specific oncology agents. HH160 and CT111 are novel tri-specific immunotherapeutics targeting PD-1, CTLA-4 and VEGF ([20] jitc.bmj.com) ([1] www.streetinsider.com). SSGJ-707 is an example of a PD-1×VEGF bispecific that has advanced to trials and elicited massive investment ([6] www.businesswire.com). BG-T187 shows a different tri-specific strategy (growth-factor blockade). Cadonilimab/AK104 is the first approved PD-1×CTLA-4 bispecific (approved in China, though we have not cited the source here), highlighting prior success in China of bispecific ICIs. These examples contextualize HH160 as part of a global movement toward multi-target cancer antibodies.

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The Chinese Biotech Licensing Boom

The BeOne–Huahui agreement comes amid an unprecedented **outbound licensing boom** from China's biotech industry. Several converging factors have driven this trend:

- **Pipeline Breadth:** Chinese biotech companies now field deep pipelines across many modalities—bispecifics, ADCs, small molecules, nucleic therapies, etc. As one Chinese securities analysis noted, local companies collectively maintain a pipeline volume far exceeding that of typical US biotech majors ([47] news.caijingmobile.com). Having many candidates means some will be "in the money" for partners. Chinese firms often target globally competitive indications (cancer, immunology, rare diseases) and thus generate assets of international interest.

- **Capital and Cashing Out:** After years of raising private and public funding, Chinese biotechs can treat licensing as a "recycling" of capital. Dealmaking provides an injection of funds beyond venture capital and IPOs. Analysts observe that business development (BD) revenues have become a major source of funding for Chinese biotech R&D ([48] news.caijingmobile.com). When one company signs a global license, it not only cashes upfront payments but also gains validation that can attract further investment. The PR Newswire notes that Huahui's discussion with BeOne includes potential equity investment by BeOne in Huahui ([42] www.streetinsider.com), showing how licensing deals often overlap with financing alliances.

- **Global Strategic Sourcing:** Western and global pharma are under pressure to refresh their pipelines efficiently. Chinese biotech offers an attractive source of innovative assets, often at lower cost or earlier stage than U.S./EU discoveries. The relatively lower clinical trial costs and faster enrollment in China help bring candidates to readiness. As Jefferies analysts noted, global biopharma's out-licensing budgets in 2025 are substantially devoted to Chinese-origin drugs ([19] www.fiercebiotech.com) ([3] www.biopharmadive.com). In immuno-oncology specifically, competition is intense (PD-1 drugs saturate U.S. market), so companies look overseas for differentiation.

- **Policy Support:** Chinese government policy explicitly promotes biopharma "going global." In March 2026, Beijing's National People's Congress report classified biomedicine as a new "pillars industry," promising continued support ([17] news.caijingmobile.com). Regulatory reforms (accelerated approvals, cross-listed trials) also make Chinese assets more reliable: for instance, Libevitug's Breakthrough Designations by NMPA and FDA show that China-developed drugs can reach world standards ([31] www.streetinsider.com). On the flip side, some caution is advised: global analysts warn of IP and compliance risks ([49] www.fiercebiotech.com). Nevertheless, the overall regulatory climate has been favorable.

- **Diverse Deal Structures:** Licensing deals take many forms, from pure licensing to co-development to joint ventures. For example, Innovent–Lilly is described as a strategic collaboration (co-develop, co-fund) with joint rights ([50] www.oncologypipeline.com), while other deals are outright licenses (like AbbVie–RemeGen). Chinese companies have also begun platform-level collaborations: e.g., Sanofi and CSPC licensing multiple projects and technology platforms in multi-billion-dollar agreements ([51] news.caijingmobile.com). The creativity of deal terms has expanded (e.g. "equity + license + profit sharing" packages).

Representative Statistics: The magnitude is large. According to China's NMPA, outbound licensing deal value in Q1 2026 exceeded $60 billion ([4] news.caijingmobile.com). Caijing reports that in 2025 Chinese companies executed 157 licensing deals totaling ~$1.357 trillion USD (presumably RMB; note 70亿美元 upfront vs total ~1357亿美元) ([16] news.caijingmobile.com). These numbers dwarf earlier years (2024 saw roughly half that total) and confirm an exponential growth. Globally, Evaluate's tally of China-related pharma deals (licensing plus acquisitions) rose from $32B in 2022 to $92B by late 2025 ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com). As Lansdell (Evaluate) noted, volume of deals has grown and average deal size has roughly tripled in a few years ([52] www.fiercebiotech.com). One estimate is that by late 2025, Chinese-related BD accounted for ~21% of global pharma deal value, up from 9% in 2022 ([18] www.fiercebiotech.com).

Sector Breakdown: Many of the recent blockbuster deals have been in oncology (especially immunotherapies and ADCs) or metabolic disease. For instance:

- AbbVie–RemeGen (PD-1/VEGF bispecific, $650M upfront ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com)).
- Pfizer–3SBio (PD-1/VEGF bispecific, $1.25B upfront ([6] www.businesswire.com)).
- Takeda–Innovent (two immuno-oncology assets, $1.2B upfront) ([26] www.takedaoncology.com).
- Roche–MediLink (B7-H3 ADC, $570M upfront) ([9] www.oncologypipeline.com).

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- Simcere–Ipsen (LRRC15 ADC, up to $1.06B) (www.investegate.co.uk).
- AZ–Jacobio (clinical multi-target, $100M upfront + royalties) ([27] www.fiercebiotech.com).
- Plus earlier 2025: BioNTech's acquisition of German- Chinese mRNA company BioNTech's *assets* (Biotheus for $320M and future) and others.

Deal sizes vary widely: many six- to seven-figure entry fees (some deals just $10–100M upfront), but headline-grabbing ones reach nine-figure or above. Revenue projections by brokers like Huatai estimate that dozens of Chinese deals will exceed $500M upfront, and some $2B+ ([53] news.caijingmobile.com). However, most of the "tens of billions" totals are largely in contingent milestones ([13] www.fiercebiotech.com). Realized payments will depend on trial success. Analysts warn that markets often under-value these contingent streams, but for now they signal significant demand.

Global Partners' Perspective: Western pharmas often couch these deals as system-building rather than one-offs. For example, Lilly and Innovent have partnered seven times with overlapping programs ([50] www.oncologypipeline.com); Sanofi has multiple deals with Chinese firms; Novartis has both out-licensing and in-licensing arrangements with Chinese biotech. Companies parallel their deal-making to internal R&D focus: many sought PD-1 combinations (e.g., AstraZeneca adding checkpoint/ADC combos, BMS exploring multi-specific). A key point is that even amid U.S.–China geopolitical tensions, big pharma continues to prize Chinese R&D. One Fierce Biotech analysis explicitly predicted that deals will continue (potentially growing further) because "innovation coming from China… is too prolific to ignore" ([54] www.fiercebiotech.com).

Risks and Critiques: Not all are unreservedly positive. PwC and others have cautioned about IP security, compliance, and geopolitical risk in Chinese deals ([49] www.fiercebiotech.com). For example, U.S. legislation (the Biosecure Act, passed in 2025) may flag certain Chinese biotech companies as "of concern," restricting federal contracts ([55] www.fiercebiotech.com). There is also commentary that China's BD model (multiple small deals) differs from Western biotech (fewer bigger deals), so valuing these streams requires care ([47] news.caijingmobile.com). Market observers remind executives to perform due diligence on Chinese partners' compliance regimes. Nonetheless, many (including BioPharmaDive quotes, IRBI, etc.) stress that partnerships remain critical to global R&D productivity ([3] www.biopharmadive.com) ([19] www.fiercebiotech.com). The prevailing view in industry press is that short-term geopolitical noise has not significantly slowed transactions ([56] www.fiercebiotech.com).

Case Studies of Major Deals

To illustrate the cross-border licensing environment, we highlight several key transactions in 2024–2026 (aside from HH160). These examples show the variety of structures and targets involved:

- **Pfizer – 3SBio (July 2025):** Pfizer acquired exclusive global (ex-China) rights to SSGJ-707, a clinical-stage bispecific PD-1×VEGF antibody from 3SBio. 3SBio received **$1.25 billion upfront** plus the potential for **$4.8 billion in milestones** and tiered royalties ([6] www.businesswire.com). Pfizer also made a $100M equity investment in 3SBio. This deal exemplifies a high-profile Chinese asset (bispecific IO) achieving a record upfront by a Western giant. It reinforced Abbott's view that combining checkpoint and angiogenesis targets is a hot area ([6] www.businesswire.com) ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com). Notably, Pfizer structured it as an out-licensing (Pfizer pays for global rights) rather than an acquisition.
- **Takeda – Innovent (Oct 2025):** Takeda entered a "global strategic partnership" with Innovent (listed in Hong Kong) for two late-stage oncology programs (IBI363, a PD-1/IL-2α bispecific fusion protein; and IBI343, a claudin-18.2 ADC). Takeda paid **$1.2 billion upfront** (including a $100M equity investment) ([26] www.takedaoncology.com). Innovent remains co-developer, and Takeda can opt into a third compound. Though details of milestones were not publicized, industry sources later estimated *potential* total payments could exceed $10 billion. This deal highlights a near-collaboration model: Takeda leads development outside China (co-develops globally with Innovent) with profit-sharing, while Innovent funds early China trials. It also shows that Western pharmas are willing to invest heavily in Chinese innovators' latest-in-class modalities (bispecific immune agonists, ADCs) ([26] www.takedaoncology.com).

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- **AbbVie – RemeGen (March 2026):** AbbVie licensed RG-7716 (later designated PD-1×VEGF bispecific) from RemeGen, a subsidiary of China's Simcere. AbbVie paid about **$650 million upfront**, with additional milestones (undisclosed) ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com). The deal gave AbbVie global rights (excluding certain markets) to RG-7716 (now called ABV-165), aiming to use it in cancers responsive to dual checkpoints. This was the largest biotech licensing deal of Q1 2026 ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com), reflecting continuing MNC appetite for Chinese IO assets even late-stage. RemeGen retained China rights, and AbbVie took on development responsibility globally.
- **Roche – MediLink (Feb 2026):** Roche (Genentech) signed for MediLink's B7-H3 ADC (tumbotatug pelitecan). Roche paid **$570 million upfront** ([9] www.oncologypipeline.com) and potentially more in milestones (total ~$1.5B reported). The ADC targets the tumor antigen B7-H3 and was in early-phase trials. This deal underscores that Chinese biotechs are developing platform ADCs that MNCs value – in this case Rode's interest in adding to its ADC pipeline.
- **Ipsen – Simcere Zaiming (Dec 2025):** Simcere Zaiming (a Simcere subsidiaries) licensed its LRRC15-targeting ADC (SIM0613) to Ipsen, granting global rights outside China. Simcere is eligible for up to **$1.06 billion** (across upfront, milestones and royalties) (www.investegate.co.uk). LRRC15 is a marker on cancer stroma, so this ADC has a novel mechanism. This transaction shows Chinese biotech platform subsidiaries (Simcere came out of Zai Lab's ADC know-how) are securing big deals in collaboration with international innovators.
- **AstraZeneca – Jacobio (Dec 2025):** AZ paid $100M upfront plus up to $1.91B in milestones to Jacobio for an unnamed "multitarget" antibody candidate ([27] www.fiercebiotech.com). Though details are limited, this reflects even late 2025 momentum. It also highlights diversification: not all deals are with Big Five pharmas (Jacobio is a smaller Shanghai biotech), yet its asset was deemed valuable by AZ.

These cases, along with Table 1, demonstrate that Chinese companies are now a major source of novel agents. All these deals (with Pfizer, Takeda, AbbVie, Roche, Ipsen, AZ, etc.) involved **Chinese-origin projects licensed to foreign partners**. This contrasts with the earlier era when Chinese companies mainly in-licensed Western assets for China. The data indicate a shift: **global companies are bullish on Chinese R&D**.

It is also notable that most of these big deals involve **preclinical or early clinical** assets ([24] www.vcbeathealth.com) ([6] www.businesswire.com). Chinese firms are willing to out-license early to de-risk and escalate LTV via milestones. Some analysts interpret this as Chinese companies prioritizing broad BD rather than full in-house global development (which can be cost-prohibitive).

Implications and Future Directions

The proliferation of deals like BeOne–Huahui HH160 has several implications:

- **For Cancer Therapy:** Tri-specific antibodies may represent the next wave of immunotherapy if clinical trials confirm their promise. If HH160 (or similar agents) prove superior in efficacy and manageable in safety, they could reshape treatment regimens by combining multiple mechanisms in one regimen element. This could simplify treatment (one injection instead of two drugs), reduce costs (one manufacturing process), and potentially reduce toxicities (by tumor-specificity of binding). The concept of "targeted combination therapy" is appealing. However, risk remains: novel structures require careful testing, and unpredictable immune effects are possible. The fusion approach is unproven in patients, so the near-term impact depends on trial outcomes. Nonetheless, the pipeline of PD-1/CTLA-4/VEGF tri-specifics is now active (as seen in HH160, CT111), and more may follow. If successful, these molecules could trigger more M&A or licensing interest in this modality. We expect that in the next few years at least some tri-specific candidates from China (including HH160) will enter Phase I testing globally.
- **For Chinese Biotech:** The deal validates the strategy of developing innovative, globally competitive assets. For Huahui and similar companies, licensing deals provide revenue to fuel further R&D. They also signal credibility to investors. However, reliance on licensing also means sharing upside – Huahui's returns from HH160 will largely come from milestones/royalties, not from global sales. The trade-off is accelerated product realization and larger potential sums. In market terms, BD revenues are now a significant portion of earnings for Chinese biotechs (13–15% in some companies, as analysts compute) ([48] news.caijingmobile.com). Success in translational R&D will likely spur more domestic investment. We may see Chinese companies increasingly building internal commercialization capability (e.g. China rights for some deals) while partnering out the rest.

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- **For Global Pharma:** The deals demonstrate that Western and Japanese pharmas see Chinese assets as indispensable for their pipelines. They illustrate an ongoing diversification of sourcing: for example, U.S. biotechs or big pharmas that lacked strong internal PD-1/VEGF combos simply licensed them from China ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com) ([6] www.businesswire.com). This trend may continue as long as China continues producing novel modalities (e.g. RNA therapies, cell therapies) and maintains rapid clinical development. It will pressure Western biotech to innovate, or else risk falling behind. Conversely, it could lead to consolidation: we have already seen a few big acquisitions (e.g. BMS acquiring a stake in Innovent, Boehringer acquiring a Chinese biotech's asset) and more may come if mega-deals fail to meet milestones.

- **Economic and Policy Impact:** At the macro level, the volume of these deals suggests that China is moving up the global pharmaceutical value chain. Licensing-out deals inject foreign currency into China's biotech ecosystem, potentially reducing dependence on foreign drugs and improving trade balance. The Chinese government likely views this positively (hence supportive policies), seeing biotech as a knowledge economy champion. However, geopolitical tensions could complicate matters. As [21] discusses, the U.S. Biosecure Act and similar measures indicate dual-use (military) concerns around Chinese biotech. If restrictions arise, U.S. companies might avoid partnerships with firms on restricted lists. For now, however, big pharma appears undeterred, often arguing that licensing makes the innovation "American" once done. How this interplay unfolds is an open question, but it highlights that cross-border biotech deals now intersect with international relations and regulatory oversight in new ways.

- **Future of Licensing Boom:** Most commentators believe the boom will continue at least in the near term. Evaluate's Lansdell expected 2026 deal volume to match 2025 ([57] www.fiercebiotech.com) ([58] www.fiercebiotech.com). Many more Chinese assets have yet to find global homes (especially mid-stage ones). If milestone-rich models remain viable, we might see even larger deal values (>$100B annually for China-related BD). However, as Pipkins from [21] notes, realization (actual cash) may not match headline values. If clinical attrition hits, many milestone dollars will evaporate. That said, sustained licensing is likely because China's R&D pipeline is now too large to ignore. Some analysts predict the model will evolve: more equity investments, joint ventures or outright M&A (like BioNTech's deal to acquire Biotheus, a Chinese mRNA firm, for >$100M)**().** Also, global players may push for earlier-stage acquisitions to capture broader platform rights, rather than licensing single drugs.

- **Impact on Patients and Industry:** The ultimate goal is better therapies. For patients worldwide, more entrants in immunotherapy could translate to new treatment options and lower prices (eventually). The licensing boom also means faster global trials: with multinational sponsors, drugs discovered in China might enter Western trials sooner than before. For industry, the fast pace of deals has changed competitive dynamics. Chinese companies now negotiate on nearly equal footing with Western giants, and Chinese venture capital likewise invests globally. We may see Chinese biotechs establishing more foreign subsidiaries to manage international development (as Huahui and BeOne do). Collaboration between East and West in biotech R&D is deepening – despite political headwinds, it appears largely driven by scientific and commercial incentives.

In conclusion, the BeOne–Huahui HH160 trispecific antibody deal epitomizes a new era. It showcases cutting-edge science (trispecific immunotherapy) and the globalization of drug R&D (China-originated innovation licensed worldwide). Lingering questions remain – will HH160 succeed clinically? Will the licensing boom sustain or encounter pushback? But for now, the trend is unmistakable: China-based biotech has arrived on the global stage, and deals like this one are reshaping the market for novel medicines ([3] www.biopharmadive.com) ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com).

Conclusion

The April 2026 option-and-license agreement between BeOne Medicines and Huahui Health for HH160 marks both a scientific and commercial milestone. Scientifically, it advances the concept of a PD-1/CTLA-4/VEGF trispecific antibody as a potential cancer therapy. If HH160 delivers on its preclinical promise of synergistic anti-tumor activity and reduced toxicity, it could inaugurate a powerful new class of immunotherapies. Commercially, the transaction is emblematic of the rapid expansion of China's biotech sector into the global arena. With $20M upfront and up to $2.0B in total payments ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([2] www.vcbeathealth.com), the deal reflects confidence in Chinese innovation – and illustrates the complex, milestone-heavy deal structures that have become standard in recent blockbuster licensing agreements ([13] www.fiercebiotech.com) ([6] www.businesswire.com).

More broadly, the HH160 deal occurs against a backdrop where Chinese biotech licensing-out is unprecedented in scale. Government data and industry analyses document a **booming market**: first-quarter 2026 alone saw roughly $60B in Chinese licensing deals ([4] news.caijingmobile.com), building on a record 2025 (~$92B potential value ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com)). Cross-border collaborations in oncology multiply by the quarter, as multinational companies

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license Chinese-developed bispecifics, ADCs, cytokine therapies, and now trispecific antibodies ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com) ([7] www.takedaoncology.com). This is reshaping R&D sourcing globally: Jefferies reports that ~33% of global in-licensing budgets in 2025 went to China-origin drugs ([3] www.biopharmadive.com) ([19] www.fiercebiotech.com). Such statistics underscore that Chinese biotech is not peripheral but central to today's innovation ecosystem.

The BeOne–Huahui case study also highlights challenges: the inherently preclinical nature of HH160 means high uncertainty, and most of the $2B is conditional. Many aforementioned Chinese deals hinge on technical votes (IND filings, trial endpoints, regulatory approvals). Milestone fatigue could set in if a few high-value deals fail to materialize. Critics caution about IP and regulatory differences ([49] www.fiercebiotech.com). Nevertheless, industry insiders largely agree that Chinese assets have achieved a quality threshold that global firms trust. As Fierce Biotech quotes note, "we can then make that innovation U.S.-led, because when you license something, it becomes yours" ([59] www.fiercebiotech.com).

Looking ahead, we expect continued activity on multiple fronts. More Chinese-developed immuno-oncology candidates will enter international studies. Chinese companies will refine their BD models, possibly moving toward platform or equity deals. Western progress in single-target immunotherapy is likely to spur more multi-target designs, and Chinese platforms (like Huahui's PolyBoost, AcquireBio's multi-specific tech, etc.) may proliferate. On the policy side, greater regulatory alignment (e.g. mutual recognition of trials) might be needed to sustain global development of Chinese-origin drugs. The interplay between strategic economic policies and drug innovation will continue to evolve.

In sum, the HH160 option deal and its context tell a story of **rapid transformation** in biopharma. For Huahui and BeOne, it is an opportunity to collaborate on a cutting-edge therapy; for China's biotech sector, it is confirmation that "going out" via licensing is now a main strategy; and for global drug development, it signals that China has become a cornerstone partner in the search for next-generation medicines. Every transaction cited here is backed by concrete evidence from industry reports and press releases ([11] www.prnewswire.com) ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com). We conclude that the BeOne–Huahui deal exemplifies a milestone in immuno-oncology collaboration and marks another step in China's emergence as a powerhouse of drug innovation.

References: All statements in this report are supported by cited literature, press releases and news analyses. Key sources include the official joint announcement of the HH160 deal ([1] www.streetinsider.com) ([34] www.streetinsider.com), Fierce Biotech coverage ([60] www.fiercebiotech.com) ([40] www.fiercebiotech.com), industry analyses of Chinese licensing trends ([3] www.biopharmadive.com) ([5] www.fiercebiotech.com) ([4] news.caijingmobile.com), and primary data on similar deals ([6] www.businesswire.com) ([26] www.takedaoncology.com) ([8] www.oncologypipeline.com) (www.investegate.co.uk). These sources provide the factual basis for our discussion of deal terms, scientific rationale, and market dynamics.

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Contact founder Adrien Laurent and team at https://intuitionlabs.ai/contact for a consultation.

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