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LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INC  
Form 8-K  
March 14, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 11, 2005

LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

000-20720  
(Commission File Number)

10275 Science Center Drive,  
San Diego, California  
(Address of principal executive offices)

(858) 550-7500  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

77-0160744  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

92121-1117  
(Zip Code)

ITEM 1.01 ENTRY INTO MATERIAL DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

On March 11, 2005 Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated entered into a settlement agreement in a recent patent interference action initiated by Ligand against two patents owned by The Burnham Institute and SRI International, but exclusively licensed to Ligand, namely U.S. Patent Numbers 5,466,861 and 5,837,725. These two patents previously were licensed exclusively to Ligand and now will be assigned to Ligand as part of the settlement.

Under the agreement, SRI and Burnham will concede before the United States Patent and Trademark Office that Ligand has priority to all the disputed claims, i.e. the claims to bexarotene. SRI and Burnham also agreed not to challenge the validity and/or enforceability of any Ligand patents or applications that cover bexarotene, including certain retinoid X receptor related patents or applications that generically cover bexarotene and to cooperate in any Ligand enforcement actions involving any Ligand patents covering bexarotene. Burnham

