



Starpharma and Industrial Research Limited Establish Major Australia/New Zealand Carbohydrate Nanotechnology Alliance

Melbourne (Australia) and Wellington (New Zealand) 3rd June 2003: Starpharma Pooled Development Limited (ASX:SPL) ("Starpharma") and Industrial Research Limited (IRL) today announced the establishment of a collaborative initiative into the development of carbohydrate functionalised dendrimers for use in therapeutics, antigen presentation and as biologically active compounds in their own right. This leading edge effort aims to make nanometre-sized particles that can be used to target drugs to specific sites resulting in better performance and fewer side effects.

The establishment of this alliance has been substantially supported by the New Zealand Government, through its Foundation for Research, Science and Technology ("FRST"), which has awarded IRL a contract totalling NZ\$5.9 million over five years. This Carbohydrate Nanotechnology contract involves the preparation of carbohydrate functionalised dendrimers and immune stimulatory complexes (ISCOMs) functionalised to achieve active targeting for potential therapeutic and vaccine applications. New Zealand collaborators in the contract also include the School of Pharmacy, University of Otago (ISCOM preparation and immunology), and the Cawthron Institute (enzymes from natural sources to prepare complex carbohydrates).

Starpharma and IRL have executed a scientific, technological and business co-operation agreement under which Starpharma will be supplying dendrimers, know-how and development expertise. IRL will draw upon its significant expertise in the design, synthesis, analysis and commercial scale manufacture of carbohydrates.

Under the terms of the agreement, the parties intend to build a glycodendrimer technology platform for commercialisation in the many potential fields of application. As carbohydrates play a central role in many human diseases, and dendrimer nanotechnology is recognised as a key enabling technology, successful outcomes of this alliance will include targeted delivery of drugs to specific tissues and the potential for more effective vaccines. Starpharma is the commercial partner to the initiative and will guide development of products. Manufacture of the high value carbohydrate products will occur at IRL's cGMP facility in New Zealand.



Dr John Raff, Chief Executive Officer of Starpharma, said: “The FRST Contract and IRL’s world-competitive position in carbohydrate science, together with Starpharma’s expertise in the pharmaceutical development of dendrimers, is the foundation for a highly significant trans-Tasman alliance. This agreement with IRL expands our existing relationship with IRL and New Zealand science and enhances significantly Starpharma’s strategy of partnering with developers of world-leading technologies that are complementary to our dendrimer technology platform. This powerful combination enhances the strategic value of dendrimers as pharmaceuticals.”

Dr Phillip Rendle, IRL’s Programme Leader of the Carbohydrate Nanotechnology contract, said he is flattered to be working with Starpharma due to their high quality science and personnel. “Starpharma’s support has been a major factor in being awarded this contract and will be crucial in achieving IRL’s mandate of adding value to New Zealand. The combination of expertise at Starpharma and IRL gives this collaboration a world-class competitive edge.”

Starpharma Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Starpharma Pooled Development Limited, is a biopharmaceutical company focussed on the development and application of dendrimer nanotechnologies as drugs against major diseases. Starpharma has an extensive intellectual property portfolio relating to dendrimer nanotechnology. It also has a joint venture company - Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc. - established with the US pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology, Dr Donald Tomalia.

Industrial Research is a commercial company with the New Zealand government as shareholder. They are an innovation-focussed business, utilising world-class science platforms to create globally competitive, market viable technologies. A driving factor is to establish science and business connections throughout the world, with a view towards commercialising technology that will establish high value industries.

Enquiries – contact:

Starpharma Limited – Melbourne
Dr John Raff
Chief Executive Officer
+61 3 8532 2701

Mr Ben Rogers
Company Secretary
+61 3 8532 2702

www.starpharma.com

Industrial Research Limited - Wellington
Dr Phillip Rendle
Carbohydrate Nanotechnology Programme Leader
+64 4 931 3167
www.irl.cri.nz