



NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT TO PROVIDE US\$3.7 BILLION OVER FOUR YEARS

MELBOURNE, 25 NOVEMBER 2003: Starpharma Pooled Development Limited (ASX:SPL) has welcomed the announcement of the passage of the Nanotechnology Research and Development Act in the US House of Representatives.

The Act has also been approved by the US Senate with legislation now expected to be signed into law by President Bush. The Act puts the President's National Nanotechnology Initiative into law and authorizes US\$3.7 billion over the next four years for the creation of the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office and the funding of federal government nanotechnology programs.

Passage of this Act further underlines the strategic importance of nanotechnology to the US economy and is being viewed as a catalyst to providing substantially increased funding for nanotechnology and related economic development initiatives.

In commenting on the significance of the legislation to the company, Starpharma CEO Dr John Raff said: "This will lead to further opportunities for Starpharma and its US associate Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc. (DNT). Both organizations have strategic intellectual property positions and were pioneers in the area of nanotechnology. Importantly, dendrimers represent a key enabling technology to the building of precisely designed nanoscale structures for many industrial applications. Starpharma has taken the first drug based on a dendrimer (defined nano-structure) through the US FDA regulatory system into human trials."

The comments below provide some indication of the significance attributed to this event in the US:

"When one looks at the next 100 years of human development and the growth of the global economy, no vote taken by Congress in the past decade will have a greater effect than today's overwhelming passage of the nanotechnology bill," said **F. Mark Modzelewski, Executive Director of the NanoBusiness Alliance.**

"This historic legislation is an investment in American innovation and economic growth. America has always been on the leading-edge of exploring new frontiers and this new science is no exception. Nanotechnology has the potential to revolutionize industry, changing the things we make and the way we make them --literally from the bottom up. This legislation will help make those possibilities a reality."
Phil Bond, Undersecretary of the US Dept. of Commerce

"The Act is a springboard to providing substantially increased funding for nanotechnology and related economic development initiatives around the nation."

Daniel Ritter, Partner, Preston Gates, Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds

"This landmark legislation confirms the US's position at the head of the nanotechnology class and allows our nation to reap the greatest possible benefits from the nano revolution."

Dr. Alexander Wong, Partner, Apax Partners

"Although the US has been supporting nanotechnology R&D for several years, passage of this bill represents a defining moment in the country's commitment to maintain its world leadership in both nanotech R&D and especially in commercialization of technologies and materials flowing from the R&D activity."

Dr. Daniel Colbert, Carbon Nanotechnologies Inc.

"This bill should insure US dominance in nanotechnology. It will be followed by a even larger flow of capital from the financial markets into nanotechnology industry. I expect this to ignite an exponential growth in entrepreneurial activity in nanotechnology."

Larry Bock, CEO of NanoSys Inc.

Starpharma recently announced that DNT was accepted as one of only seven industrial charter members to be a part of the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnology ("ISN"), a US\$90 million consortium managed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology to develop nanotechnology for the army of the future. Other charter members alongside DNT include global multinationals such as Dupont, Raytheon and Dow Corning. Starpharma has also recently announced an additional US\$3.0 million grant from the US Army to DNT and Central Michigan University on top of the US\$3.5 million they received to establish "The Center for Dendrimer Based Nanotechnology." Starpharma via DNT remains confident of winning substantial further grant funding and contracts over the next four years.

Starpharma Pooled Development Limited (ASX:SPL) is a registered pooled development fund with investments in wholly owned subsidiary biopharmaceutical companies focused on the development and application of dendrimer nanotechnologies as drugs against major diseases. Starpharma's lead dendrimer product, VivaGel™ has received clearance from the US FDA for human clinical trials. VivaGel™ is a topical microbicide gel product that has been developed for women as a preventative against the sexual transmission of HIV. Starpharma also has a 49.9% equity interest in the US based company – Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc. (DNT) – established with the US pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald Tomalia.

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