



18 March 2004

STARPHARMA - PDF STATUS AND CHANGE OF NAME

Melbourne (Australia) 18 March 2004: Starpharma Pooled Development Limited (ASX:SPL) today announced that the PDF Board has accepted Starpharma's application to revoke its status as a PDF.

With effect from 17th March 2004 the name of the company will be **Starpharma Holdings Limited**. The ASX code will remain as SPL.

Starpharma CEO Dr John Raff would like to express appreciation to the PDF Board for its support of the company since its establishment in 1997. Dr Raff Said: "The PDF status has been very useful in attracting initial investment into the Company. However the Company has entered into a new phase of growth as an international participant in the biotechnology and nanotechnology industries, and there are commercially compelling issues whereby it is no longer in shareholders' interests to retain PDF status."

For taxation purposes, shareholders will be deemed to have disposed of their shares in the company immediately before it ceased to be a PDF and to have immediately re-acquired the shares for their market value. The deemed sale or disposal does not, by itself, give rise to any tax liabilities for the shareholders.

There are a number of other consequences of the deregistration and these were set out in the Explanatory Notes for the General Meeting of Shareholders held on 22nd January 2004.

The company will be writing to all shareholders as soon as possible to advise them of the change in status and to again outline some of the taxation consequences that arise for shareholders of the company.

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