



## **Starpharma ADRs Added to Nanosphere List of Leading Nanotechnology Stocks for 2005**

**Melbourne (Australia), 28 January 2005:** *The Forbes/Wolfe Nanotech Report*, a leading investor newsletter analysing advancements in the nanotechnology industry, has added Starpharma's American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), (USOTC:SPHRY, ASX:SPL) to its "Nanosphere" list of leading nanotechnology stocks.

*The Forbes/Wolfe Nanotech Report* ([www.forbes.com/newsletters](http://www.forbes.com/newsletters)) describes the Nanosphere as comprising "early leaders in nanotechnology, and as such, should interest investors seeking to orient their portfolios toward this revolutionary technology." In the January 2005 edition of the Report, Starpharma is featured in an article entitled "Top Nanotech Buys for 2005". Other companies listed on the Nanosphere include Hewlett-Packard, IBM and leading material science company Symyx.

Starpharma is a world leader in the development of pharmaceuticals based upon a novel class of nanotechnology chemicals called dendrimers. In September 2004 *The Forbes/Wolfe Nanotech Report* identified dendrimer technology as one of the five nanotechnologies that could change the world, and in December 2004 it named the company's recently completed successful phase I trial of VivaGel™ – Starpharma's polyvalent microbicide for HIV prevention – as one of the Top 5 Nanotech Breakthroughs of 2004.

Starpharma's strategy is to position itself as the leading source of dendrimer nanotechnology drug product opportunities with substantial commercial potential to pharmaceutical partners. A major deal announced on January 27<sup>th</sup> between The Dow Chemical Company, Starpharma and its strategic partner Dendritic NanoTechnologies, Inc has significantly increased Starpharma's intellectual property position in the field of dendrimers used as polyvalent pharmaceuticals, and assists with the company's out-licensing and product development objectives.

In addition, the inclusion of Starpharma on the Nanosphere list will assist the company's investors to monitor Starpharma's progress within the broader context of the rapidly evolving international nanotechnology industry.

Starpharma's ADRs trade under the code SPHRY (CUSIP number 855563102). Each Starpharma ADR is equivalent to 10 ordinary shares of Starpharma as traded on the Australian Stock Exchange. The Bank of New York is the depositary bank.

**About Starpharma:**

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL) is focused on the development and application of dendrimer nanotechnologies as drugs against major diseases. VivaGel™ is a topical microbicide gel product that has been developed for women as a preventative against the sexual transmission of HIV. It is also active in animal studies for the prevention of other sexually transmitted diseases including genital herpes and Chlamydia. SPL also has an equity interest in a US based company – Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc. (DNT) – established with the US pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald A. Tomalia.

**Microbicides**

A microbicide inactivates, kills or destroys microbes. Microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams, sponges, suppositories or films with the purpose of reducing significantly the incidence of STDs. There are currently no vaginal microbicides on the market. They are intended for vaginal or rectal use to afford protection for varying periods, from several hours up to days. Microbicides may also be designed to have a contraceptive function by inhibiting sperm.

**Dendrimers**

Dendrimers are a type of nanoparticle. They are man-made chemicals that form tiny balls made up of a dense network of branches. Dendrimers have applications in the medical, electronics, chemicals and materials industries.

**For further information, please contact**

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