



## **Dendritic NanoTechnologies Appoints Dow Chemical Company Licensing Executive to Board of Directors**

**Melbourne, Australia, 29 March 2005** – Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX: SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) today released the attached announcement by Dendritic NanoTechnologies Inc. (“DNT”), regarding the appointment of The Dow Chemical Company Licensing Manager (Mr Mike Pirc) to its Board of Directors.

In January 2005 Starpharma announced a tri-partite deal between DNT, The Dow Chemical Company (“Dow”) and Starpharma whereby Dow transferred ownership of its portfolio of dendrimer nanotechnology intellectual property to DNT in return for a significant equity stake in DNT. Under the terms of the deal Starpharma has commercialisation rights to polyvalent pharmaceutical applications of the DNT portfolio including the 196 ex-Dow patents. Starpharma remains the major shareholder in DNT with a 33% equity position.

Starpharma CEO Dr John Raff said: “Mike Pirc brings international licensing expertise and a wide range of other skills that complement the existing strong DNT Board and we welcome his appointment. DNT is very well placed to be an international leader in the commercial applications of nanotechnology.”

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### **About Starpharma**

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) is leading the world in nanomedicine. Its lead product in development is VivaGel™, a vaginal microbicide gel that has been developed for women as a preventative against the sexual transmission of HIV. It has also shown activity in animal studies for the prevention of other sexually transmitted diseases including genital herpes. The Company has a broad range of opportunities arising from its innovations involving the discovery and development of pharmaceutical nanotechnology products using dendrimers and the multi-binding phenomenon of polyvalence. Development programs include multi-acting respiratory and anti-cancer applications.

Starpharma also has an equity interest in a Michigan 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.

**American Depositary Receipts (ADRs):** 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.

**For further information:**

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## **Dendritic NanoTechnologies Appoints Dow Chemical Licensing Manager to Board of Directors)**

Dendritic NanoTechnologies Inc. (DNT), a technology company that is a leading developer and provider of advanced dendritic polymers, or "dendrimers," today announced it has appointed Michael Pirc, a chemical engineer and licensing manager for The Dow Chemical Company (NYSE: DOW), to the company's Board of Directors. Dendrimers are nanostructures with specific, precise and predictable physical properties that make them especially useful for targeting diseases and delivering drugs to fight them.

In his capacity as Dow's business manager for the Dow Technology Licensing Business, Pirc has overseen licensing for a broad range of Dow's business ventures. At DNT, Pirc will help the company better position itself to engage companies that wish to license DNT's unique dendrimer technologies.

In January, DNT announced a strategic partnership with Dow and DNT investor Starpharma, an Australia-based dendrimer developer (ASX: SPL, USOTC: SPHRY). This agreement means that DNT owns the world's broadest dendrimer patent portfolio (196 patents comprising 41 patent families). Pirc, who was instrumental in the agreement between Dow and DNT, and who has extensive experience with Dow's dendrimer intellectual property, is uniquely positioned to identify potential licensing arrangements for DNT's technology and help bring those arrangements to fruition.

"Thanks in part to Mike's efforts while heading technology licensing at Dow, DNT was able to acquire the majority of intellectual property in the dendrimer field," said Robert Berry, chief executive officer, Dendritic NanoTechnologies. "We simply could not have found a board member who would be in a better position to help us take our comprehensive dendrimer portfolio to a wider base of licensees. In addition, with his background as a chemical engineer, his extensive research into polymers, and his experience managing dendrimer licensing with Dow, Mike comes to DNT's board with a resume that is tailor-made for the role. We're thrilled to have him on the team."

"The development and agreement of mutually beneficial licensing agreements is a key element in DNT's business plan," said Mike Pirc, business manager, Dow Technology Licensing. "As a board member, I intend bring my licensing experience to bear on DNT's forthcoming business ventures, and to guide and assist Bob and his team in maximizing the potential of the company."

Dendrimer technology was first developed at Dow when DNT founder Donald Tomalia was a Dow employee. DNT's initial research and licensing efforts include imaging contrast agents for new diagnostic solutions for enhancing the findings of MRIs, transfection reagents for RNA-I delivery with improved gene silencing with less toxicity, and encapsulation and release of palatinite-based anti-cancer drugs to reduce the toxicity and side effects of their use. With the assignment of the Dow patent portfolio, DNT owns the world's broadest intellectual property position in dendrimer science.

### **About DNT**

Dendritic NanoTechnologies Inc. (DNT) is a technology company that is a leading developer and provider of advanced dendritic nanoscale polymers. Dendrimers are nanostructures with specific, precise and predictable physical properties that make them especially useful for pharmaceuticals, medical imaging, electronics, materials, and the mass commercial markets. DNT has a broad and comprehensive IP portfolio that comprises over 200 patents in 41 patent families—a unique level of IP concentration among nanotechnology companies—and has existing licensing agreements with established revenue streams for dendrimer technology. DNT's business strategy is to establish dendrimer technology, through licensing agreements, as the preferred nanotechnology enabling platform from which to build value and generate revenue for DNT and its customers. DNT's technology development is directed by Donald A. Tomalia Ph.D., the company's president and chief technical officer. Dr. Tomalia had a 25-year management and senior scientist career with The Dow Chemical Company, has numerous commercial developments including Citruce!® (now marketed by GlaxoSmithKline) and cationic polymerization of 2-oxazolines, and is the inventor and originator of the term "dendrimers." Incorporated in 2003, DNT is a U.S. company located in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. <http://www.dnanotech.com>

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