



Increasing US investment support for Starpharma

Melbourne, Australia: Thursday 6th April 2006: Starpharma (ASX:SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) is capitalising on growing US investor interest in the company and its lead product VivaGel™ for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

Starpharma's American Depository Receipts (ADR) Program has been strongly supported since its inception in January 2005 and the number of ADRs outstanding has been growing at an average rate of 9% per month, increasing to more than 15% per month in early 2006. Managed by the Bank of New York, the Starpharma ADR program currently represents 6.2% of the company's issued capital and is traded by major brokers including Merrill Lynch, Credit Lyonnais, Natexis Bleichroeder, and Pershing LLC.

The increasing US interest is in part a result of the US-based National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarding Starpharma a contract for US\$20.3m in October 2005 to develop VivaGel™. The FDA also recently granted *Fast Track* status to expedite the development of VivaGel™.

"Starpharma is very pleased with the support we have received for our ADR program in the past year," said CEO Dr John Raff.

"We believe that the success of the program demonstrates the increased interest we have received from US investors as a direct result of the significant funding support received from the NIH for VivaGel™. We look forward to continuing to gain US investor support in the future as we progress VivaGel™ through the next stages of development."

Starpharma is currently conducting an investment roadshow in the US and is one of a select group of companies presenting today at the Australian Biotechnology Expo and tomorrow at the BBY/Jeffries Life Sciences Conference, both in New York City.

Starpharma's US presentation can be viewed on the Starpharma website www.starpharma.com

For further information on the ADR program please visit www.adrbny.com

About Starpharma:

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) leads the world in the application of nanotechnology to pharmaceuticals. The Company's lead development product is VivaGel™ (SPL7013 Gel), a vaginal microbicide designed to prevent the transmission of STIs, including HIV and genital herpes.

VivaGel™ is the first example of a product to come from Starpharma's dendrimer-based discovery pipeline, which also includes specific programs in the fields of ADME Engineering™ (using dendrimers to control where and when drugs go when introduced to the body), Polyvalency (using the fact that dendrimers can activate multiple receptors simultaneously) and Targeted Diagnostics (using dendrimers as a scaffold to

which both location-signalling and targeting groups are added to allow location of specific cell type, such as cancer cells).

Starpharma also has equity interests in two companies:

- *Dendritic NanoTechnologies, Inc. (DNT)* – established with the pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald A. Tomalia and based in Michigan, USA; and
- *Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd* – a specialist drug development company established to commercialise unique technology developed at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research in the new field of receptor coupling, specifically G-Protein coupled receptors (“GPCRs”).

Dendrimers: A type of precisely-defined, branched nanoparticle. Dendrimers have applications in the medical, electronics, chemicals and materials industries.

Microbicides: A microbicide inactivates, kills or destroys microbes such as viruses and bacteria. Microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams, sponges, suppositories or films with the purpose of reducing significantly the incidence of STIs. 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.

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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