



## Starpharma's DNT Priostar™ Dendrimers Significantly Improve Properties of Marketed Fluorescent Reagents

**Melbourne, Australia; 7 May 2007:** Starpharma (ASX:SPL, OTCQX:SPHRY), through its US subsidiary company Dendritic Nanotechnologies Inc (DNT), has found that DNT's Priostar™ dendrimer technology can be used to amplify the signal and increase the duration of the signal (photostability) of existing products in the multi-billion dollar fluorescent reagents market. The company has filed a patent for the discovery through DNT.

Fluorescent reagents are used extensively in laboratories for high-throughput screening, diagnostic immunoassays, microarrays, fluorescence microscopy, genomics and proteomics. Strong signals and photostability are extremely important properties as they increase the sensitivity of detection methods and facilitate measurement of the signal, respectively.

Increased sensitivity is needed to study disease markers that are present at very low levels – often below those detectable with current technologies.

Using its Priostar™ technology, DNT has created dye-dendrimer complexes from various commercial dyes that show significantly enhanced fluorescent (greater than 10 fold) and photostability (greater than 4 fold), in addition to improved solubility in water.

Preliminary testing has shown that the enhanced properties of Priostar™ dendrimer-dye complexes are retained after attachment to an antibody, an integral component for many of the applications of fluorescent dyes.

“Market feedback indicates that the scientific community and industry users of these products will highly value the availability of reagents with increased sensitivity and photostability,” said Dr. Lori Reyna, director of life sciences at DNT. Scientists are always keen to increase the sensitivity of detection and quantitation methods.“

DNT will partner with established leaders in the diagnostic and research reagent industries through licensing and supply agreements. The initial commercialization target will be the research reagent and *in vitro* diagnostic markets. DNT is currently in preliminary commercialization discussions with the market leaders in the area of fluorescence reagents.

### About Starpharma:

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Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, OTCQX:SPHRY) is a world leader in the development of dendrimer nanotechnology for pharmaceutical, life-science and other applications. SPL is principally composed of two operating companies, Starpharma Pty Ltd in Melbourne, Australia and **Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc** in Michigan, USA. Products based on SPL's dendrimer technology are already on the market in the form of diagnostic elements and laboratory reagents.

The Company's lead pharmaceutical development product is VivaGel™ (SPL7013 Gel), a vaginal microbicide designed to prevent the transmission of STIs, including HIV and genital herpes.

Starpharma's proprietary dendrimer platform, which includes Priostar, also has potential in targeted diagnostics and in drug delivery for a wide variety of drugs. Improvements including enhanced solubility, targeting and reduced toxicity have been demonstrated for a number of existing drugs. More broadly the company, via DNT, is actively exploring dendrimer opportunities in materials science with applications as diverse as adhesives, lubricants and water remediation. SPL has a comprehensive IP portfolio that comprises more than 180 patents/applications issued and pending across 32 patent families - a unique level of IP concentration among nanotechnology companies.

### **About Dendritic Nanotechnologies Inc. (DNT)**

Starpharma's wholly owned U.S. based operating subsidiary – Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc. located in Mount Pleasant, Michigan - provides innovative dendrimer technologies and commercialization services with its new proprietary Priostar™ dendrimer technologies. DNT's proprietary Priostar™ dendrimer platform serves as a targeted diagnostic and therapeutic delivery system for a wide variety of drugs to cancer cells and other diseases. Improved efficacy, enhanced solubility, and lower toxicity have been demonstrated for a number of existing drugs. Priostar™ dendrimers are the newest generation of dendrimers and were engineered to be commercially viable (reduced manufacturing complexity and costs). The company has patents pending on its Priostar™ family of dendrimers. PrioFect, Priostar and STARBURST® are trademarks of Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc. All other trademarks mentioned herein are held by their respective owners.

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

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**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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