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Novuspharma SpA
Financial Results for the Ninth Months Ended 30 September 2003

Bresso, Italy, 20 October 2003 -- Novuspharma SpA (Nuovo Mercato: NOV.MI, NOV IM), a biopharmaceutical company focused on cancer, today announces financial results for the nine months ended 30 September 2003.

Highlights:

- Merger process with Cell Therapeutics, Inc is advancing in line with previous forecasts for closing: integration team working on potential operating and cost synergies. Shareholders' meetings to approve merger to be held on 23 October
- US regulatory strategy for Pixantrone (BBR 2778) in relapsed aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) discussed with the FDA; pivotal trial to be submitted under FDA's Special Protocol Assessment Procedure.
- Results of a Phase II study for Pixantrone in relapsed aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) published in *Haematologica*, demonstrating an overall response rate of 30%
- Positive results for Pixantrone in the new BSHAP regimen published at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the International Society for Experimental Haematology
- Net loss for the nine months to 30 September 2003 of €26.5 million
- Cash balance at 30 September 2003 of €84.6 million (31 December 2002: €109.8 million)

Dr Silvano Spinelli, Chief Executive of Novuspharma, said:

"Our primary goal is to conclude the ongoing merger with Cell Therapeutics (CTI): the integration is proceeding rapidly and researchers from both companies have been working together for several months now. Among other things, we hope to be prepared to launch Trisenox in Italy as soon as possible after the merger is completed. We look forward to sharing the strategic advantages of this operation with our shareholders at the extraordinary shareholders meeting."

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For further information, please visit the Company's website at www.novuspharma.com.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REVIEW

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenues for the nine months ended 30 September 2003 were €2.0 million, compared to €2.8 million in the first nine months of 2002. Revenues in the period were mainly due to public grants supporting Novuspharma's research programmes.

Net loss for the period was €26.5 million compared with €24.5 million in 2002. This increase was in line with the Company's expectations and reflects the advanced stage of the products in clinical development, particularly the large-scale studies with Pixantrone for NHL.

The Company's cash balance as of 30 September 2003 was €84.6 million (31 December 2002: €109.8 million), leaving Novuspharma well financed to achieve its goals in 2004 and beyond.

Merger with Cell Therapeutics, Inc

The merger process is progressing well with integration plans advanced. The merger is expected to close in the first days of 2004, with the extraordinary shareholders' meeting for both companies due to take place on 23 October 2003. The two companies have also made significant progress in expanding the commercialisation of Trisenox in Europe. Trisenox is a product currently marketed by CTI and represents the only registered product for relapsed acute promyelocytic leukaemia (APL) in Europe, a disease which has limited treatment options. We are planning to launch Trisenox in Italy as soon as possible after completion of the merger. Since the announcement of the merger, an integration team has been established and significant progress has been made in identifying potential operating and cost synergies between the two companies.

Pixantrone Update

In October, preliminary discussions were held with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the design of a registration trial for Pixantrone in aggressive NHL. The Agency's advice is being incorporated into the final proposal that will be submitted under the Special Protocol Assessment (SPA) process this year. The study will focus on patients who have failed at least two lines of standard multi-chemotherapy regimens. Currently, there is no established treatment for these poor-prognosis patients and therefore the registration package should qualify for accelerated review and approval under sub-part H.

In July, Novuspharma presented preliminary positive results from a phase I combination trial for Pixantrone in relapsed aggressive NHL, at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the International Society for Experimental Haematology. In this trial Pixantrone was used in the new BSHAP combination (Pixantrone, cytarabine, methylprednisolone and cisplatin). The results revealed an objective response rate of 58% (11/19 patients) with an impressive 32% achieving complete disappearance of their tumours.

In August, Novuspharma published results of a Phase II study for Pixantrone (BBR 2778) in relapsed aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). These results demonstrated an overall response rate of 30%, with 17% of patients experiencing a complete disappearance of their tumour following Pixantrone therapy. Response to treatment was long lasting, averaging 11 months, with some patients still in remission 24 months following treatment. Grade 4 neutropenia was the most frequently reported side effect, observed in 13 patients and requiring dose reduction in only 5 patients. The results were published in the August issue of *Haematologica*, *Journal of Haematology* (Borchmann et al., Volume 88, No. 8), in a paper entitled: Phase-II study of the new aza-anthracenedione BBR 2778 in patients with relapsed aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphomas.

Notes to Editors

Novuspharma SpA based in Bresso, Milan, is an emerging biopharmaceutical company leveraging its expertise in the field of oncology to discover and develop innovative new treatments for cancer. It has three products in clinical development and a dynamic research programme. Novuspharma was established in 1998 following the merger of Boehringer Mannheim and Hoffmann-La Roche, to exploit the R&D team's proven track record in product development. On June 17, 2003, Novuspharma announced it had signed a merger agreement with Cell Therapeutics (CTI) of Seattle. CTI is a public biopharmaceutical company, which markets TRISENOX® in the US and Europe and is developing XYOTAX™ (CT-2103), which is in pivotal Phase III trials for non-small cell lung cancer.

Profit and Loss highlights

amounts in Euro/000	Three month period 1/7-30/9		Nine month period 1/1-30/9	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
Revenues	252	126	1.970	2.800
R&D costs	- 5.829	- 5.480	- 17.171	- 17.196
Other operating costs	- 1.800	- 1.420	- 7.853	- 4.996
EBITDA	7.377	6.774	23.054	19.392
Depreciation, amortisation and write-downs	- 2.783	- 5.341	- 6.240	- 7.665
EBIT	10.160	12.115	29.294	27.057
Net financial income	669	665	2.774	2.517
Net loss for the period	9.491	11.450	26.520	24.540

Balance sheet highlights

amounts in Euro/000	30/9/2003	30/6/2003	31/12/2002
Net financial position	84.568	96.008	109.842
Other current assets	10.151	9.934	11.001
Net intangible and tangible fixed assets	5.210	5.798	7.941
Total assets	99.929	111.740	128.784
Short-term liabilities	7.535	9.888	10.216
Long-term obligations	1.347	1.315	1.002
Net equity	91.047	100.537	117.566
Total liabilities and net equity	99.929	111.740	128.784