

September 3, 2012

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Ono and Galapagos Subsidiary BioFocus Sign Drug Discovery Agreement in the Field of CNS Disorders

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka Japan) and BioFocus (Saffron Walden UK) announced today that they have signed a new collaborative research agreement, focused on discovering novel compounds in the field of CNS disorders.

Under the agreement, BioFocus will receive research funding and success payment based on the progress of the collaboration. BioFocus will engage in discovering novel pre-clinical candidates by providing comprehensive discovery platform encompassing medicinal chemistry, ADME/PK and biological sciences. Ono has worldwide exclusive rights to develop and commercialize the pharmaceutical products containing the compounds discovered through this collaboration.

Kazuhito Kawabata, Ph.D., Member of the Board of Directors, Executive Officer and Executive Director, Discovery and Research of Ono commented: "We have the highest regard for the BioFocus' comprehensive drug discovery platform. This collaboration will strengthen Ono's drug discovery capability in the field of CNS disorders with significant unmet medical needs and we are expecting that innovative drugs will be created through this collaboration."

"We are delighted to have this new agreement, which is the first drug discovery program with this, a most valued, client." said Dr. Chris Newton, SVP Galapagos Services and Managing Director of BioFocus. "This project plays to BioFocus historic strengths and the expanding breadth and depth of this partnership is testament to a tried and trusted relationship."

About BioFocus

BioFocus provides integrated drug discovery that delivers pre-clinical drug candidates in all therapeutic areas with strong capability in neurodegenerative diseases, inflammatory diseases and with a growing track record of delivering candidates against rare and neglected diseases. BioFocus has advanced and comprehensive drug discovery capabilities that are applied to client projects to deliver targets, hits, leads and candidate pre-clinical drugs. As a service division of Galapagos, BioFocus employs over 250 exceptionally qualified and industry experienced scientists at its three research centers in the UK, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Since its foundation in 1997, BioFocus has striven to produce high quality data for its clients and this quality is assured by ISO9001 qualification validated by regular, independent inspection of all BioFocus research centers.

For more information please visit www.biofocus.com.