



**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

DATE : 2nd October 2007

## **AVECIA AND RENOVO ANNOUNCE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AGREEMENT**

*Tees Valley & Manchester, UK* – Avecia Biologics Limited and Renovo, the world leader in scar prevention and reduction research, have entered into an agreement for process development and manufacture of Renovo's development product, Prevascar™, a therapeutic formulation of human recombinant Interleukin 10 (IL-10), following a successful manufacturing campaign.

Under the agreement, terms of which have not been disclosed, Avecia will carry out development work to optimise the drug manufacturing process and scale-up, and conduct further cGMP manufacture of IL-10 in Avecia's biologics facilities in the Tees Valley, UK. This development and manufacturing agreement will provide Renovo with Prevascar™ in sufficient quantities to support ongoing clinical trials, together with a manufacturing process to underpin commercialisation of a cost-effective drug.

Earlier this year Renovo announced positive Phase II safety and efficacy clinical trial results for Prevascar™ in the prevention and reduction of scarring in the skin. In addition to refining further Prevascar™'s optimal dose in the skin, Renovo plans to initiate a clinical trial to investigate Prevascar™'s efficacy in the reduction of scarring following the severing of peripheral nerves.

Dr. Stephen Taylor, Avecia's Development Business Director, said: "We are delighted that Renovo have decided to carry out further development and manufacturing on IL-10. We look forward to building on our successful relationship and supporting Renovo into further clinical development and hopefully market launch for this exciting potential treatment."

Dr Sharon O’Kane, co-founder and Executive Director of R&D of Renovo added: “Following the successful manufacture of IL-10, we are confident that Avecia’s process development expertise, combined with their GMP manufacturing capabilities, will provide us with a robust process for further material to progress our clinical trials of Prevascar™.”

## **ENDS**

### **About Avecia**

*Avecia is a privately owned biotechnology group of companies with recognised leading positions in the process development and manufacture of biopharmaceutical and oligonucleotide medicines. It is also a leading developer of bio-defence vaccines. The Group’s Tees Valley, UK site has been developing processes and making protein-based biologics to cGMP since 1998. Products currently being worked on include medicines targeted at forms of cancer, heart conditions, stroke, growth and blood disorders. Customers range from some of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies to small innovative biotech start-up businesses. For further information on Avecia please visit : [www.avecia.com](http://www.avecia.com)*

### **About Renovo Group plc**

*Renovo is the world leader in scar prevention and reduction research and has a portfolio of drugs which exploit different novel mechanisms of action to prevent and reduce scarring at multiple body sites and to accelerate healing.*

*Juvista, Renovo’s lead drug for the prevention and reduction of scarring in the skin has been safely administered to over 1,500 human subjects and has reported statistical and clinical significance in five Phase 2 efficacy trials. Renovo announced in June 2007 that it had signed an exclusive licensing agreement with Shire plc, worth up to \$825 million plus royalties, to develop and commercialise Juvista. The agreement covers every country in the world except the European Union, the rights to which have been retained by Renovo.*

*Zesteem®, Renovo’s lead drug for the acceleration of wound healing in the skin, commenced Phase 3 clinical trials in December 2006. Prevascar™ reported statistically significant Phase 2 efficacy data for the prevention and reduction of scarring in the skin in April 2007 and is additionally being investigated for enhancing regeneration of peripheral nerves following injury or trauma.*

*For further information on Renovo please visit: [www.renovo.com](http://www.renovo.com)*

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