



NEWS & ASX RELEASE

DRUG BIOSYNTHESIS SHOWS PROMISE FOR PEPLIN

Brisbane Australia, 15 September, 2003.

In an announcement today, Peplin Biotech Ltd (ASX:PEP) advised that its collaboration with the CRC for Bioproducts to explore biosynthetic methods of producing anti-cancer compounds had yielded promising results.

Contract research conducted by the CRC in Sydney and Melbourne has demonstrated *in vitro* anti-cancer activity from compounds produced by a cell line from a plant species which had not previously been taken into cell culture.

“We are progressing the development and scale-up of GMP production of our lead compound PEP005 from plant sources grown in the usual manner in both Australia and Europe, and are confident we can meet future demands for world-wide supply of drug from these conventional means. However, our policy is to parallel track a number of biosynthetic routes to ensure we retain our competitive advantages”, said Peplin Biotech’s managing director, Garry Redlich. “We are particularly pleased with the results from the CRC for Bioproducts.”

Biosynthesis includes production of active drug compounds from the cells of living organisms including plants which are cultured in artificial environments. Its benefits can include lower costs of production, better control of the drug production process and discovery of novel active compounds.

ABOUT PEPLIN BIOTECH

Peplin Biotech Ltd is a biotechnology company based in Brisbane, Australia, discovering and developing drugs for the treatment of cancer and other diseases. Its strategy is to leverage its pipeline of novel proprietary products through collaborative development arrangements with international pharmaceutical companies. In November 2002 Peplin signed an Americas-focused research collaboration and license agreement involving its lead drug for skin and eye disease with Allergan, Inc. that may result in milestone and other payments to Peplin of up to US\$23m. Peplin’s product pipeline comprises small molecule drug candidates addressing major cancer targets including breast, colorectal, pancreatic and prostate cancer, leukemia and melanoma, using topical, intralesional and systemic routes of administration.

Further information:

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