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Hypoxium and Horizon Discovery partner to offer novel personalized drug discovery services

Cambridge, 1st May 2008:

Hypoxium Limited (Hypoxium) and Horizon Discovery Limited (Horizon) today announce the closing of an agreement to offer a new range of services using Horizon Discovery's unique panel of genetically-defined human disease models called 'isogenic' cell lines.

Using proprietary gene-engineering technology, Horizon Discovery has built a gold-standard panel of human knock-in and knock-out cell lines, paired to their genetically matched normal cell types, that will significantly speed up and rationalize many aspects of cutting-edge 'personalised' drug discovery – from target selection, lead-compound generation and profiling for the most responsive patients to target in clinical trials.

Hypoxium will provide a key resource in this process by enabling pharmaceutical and academic researchers to profile their targets and drug candidates on these isogenic paired cell lines using a range of off-the-shelf and bespoke cell biology assays; from simple cell viability assays to complex mechanism of action studies, under either normal or pathological growth conditions.

Dan Cowell, CEO of Hypoxium said, "Working with Horizon Discovery is an excellent fit with our strategy of increasing our oncology focused cell biology offering with technologies that will benefit our clients' discovery programs. By working with leaders in the field such as Horizon, we can continue to expand the tools available to researchers in cancer".

Chris Torrance, CEO of Horizon Discovery said, "Our extensive panel of isogenic human cancer cell-lines is a key, previously missing tool in understanding the link between drug behavior and patients genetic mutation. Hypoxium and Horizon Discovery have a shared vision to accelerate the discovery of new and improved 'personalised' cancer treatments and together we will be able to offer clients a wide range of cost-effective routes to do this".

The new offering is available now to pharmaceutical and biotech customers on standard commercial terms with a special scheduled monthly service for academic organisations that allows large numbers of individual research groups to send small numbers of compounds for affordable drug profiling.

About Horizon Discovery

Horizon Discovery is a translational genomics company founded in June 2007 and is headquartered at the Babraham Research Campus, Cambridge, UK and with additional research laboratories in Torino, Italy. Horizon's goal is to convert new information on the genetic causes of cancer into laboratory models that will facilitate the discovery of drugs that target these defects. Central to this aim is Horizon Discovery's offering of isogenic cell-lines, which represent accurate models of defined cancer patient populations and their matched normal genetic backgrounds -- a missing link in the rational and efficient development of novel targeted anti-cancer agents.

For more information, please visit <http://www.horizondiscovery.com>.

About Hypoxium

Based in Cambridge UK, Hypoxium provides comprehensive, high quality and affordable custom cell biology research services within the oncology therapeutic area. The core goal of the company is to provide scientifically driven and industry focused pre-clinical cell biology, to assist in the development of novel therapies for oncology. Hypoxium can support projects from proof of concept through to pre-clinical evaluation of new chemical entities.

Formed in October 2006, Hypoxium have quickly established laboratories, attracted a wide range of clients and successfully delivered results that have significantly contributed to clients' discovery programs.

Further information on Hypoxium can be found at: <http://www.hypoxium.com>

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