



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mundipharma Acquires EU / EEA Development and Commercialization Rights for Anti - Cancer Compound Bendamustine from Astellas Deutschland GmbH, Munich, Germany**

**October 26 2006:** Mundipharma International Corp. Ltd. (Mundipharma), a privately held pharmaceutical company, today announced it has acquired exclusive development and marketing rights for the anti-cancer compound Bendamustine from Astellas Deutschland GmbH, Munich, Germany, under a License Agreement effective October 1st 2006.

Under the terms of the agreement, Mundipharma receives an exclusive license for all countries in the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA), including Germany, where the product is already marketed as RIBOMUSTIN™, generating annual sales of €13 million in the treatment of Non Hodgkin Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma and Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia. Mundipharma will take over development and marketing rights effective April 1st 2007 and it is expected that the product will be launched in other countries from 2008. In return, Mundipharma will make an upfront payment and a series of milestone payments based on successful development and approval of the product. Astellas retains the manufacturing rights and will supply Mundipharma with finished goods.

Bendamustine is characterized by a bi-functional activity. It induces apoptosis (cell suicide) due to its p53 dependent alkylating activity but with a more pronounced and longer lasting DNA damaging effect compared to other alkylating agents. In addition it induces mitotic catastrophe (disruption of cell division) by down regulation of mitotic checkpoints, potentially providing the reason for its anti-tumour activity in chemotherapy relapsed and resistant patients.

“Bendamustine is an exciting compound which represents a class of its own.” said Åke Wikström , Regional Director, Europe, Mundipharma International Ltd. “Bendamustine will be an important new agent for physicians and support Mundipharma’s growing reputation with haemato-oncologists for providing novel therapies that provide important patient benefits through their efficacy and tolerability.”

Dr. Bernhard Huber, Managing Director of Astellas Deutschland GmbH said: “After having identified in Cephalon and Symbio two potent partners to develop and market Bendamustine in North America and Japan respectively, it was our objective to ally with an equally well-qualified partner to develop and market the product throughout EU / EEA. Mundipharma shows an excellent understanding of the science around the product and its place in therapy. We are confident that Mundipharma will ensure that the full potential of Bendamustine will be realised and we are delighted to cooperate with them.”

#### **Notes to editors**

##### **About Mundipharma**

Mundipharma is one of the Purdue/Mundipharma/Napp independent associated companies - privately owned companies and joint ventures covering the world's pharmaceutical markets. The companies

worldwide are dedicated to bringing to patients with severe and debilitating diseases the benefits of novel treatment options in fields such as severe pain, haemato-oncology and respiratory disease. For more information: [www.mundipharma.co.uk](http://www.mundipharma.co.uk)

#### **About Astellas Deutschland GmbH**

In April 2005, Astellas Pharma Inc. was formed through the merger of Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd and Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. The organisation is committed to becoming a global pharmaceutical company by combining outstanding R&D and marketing capabilities and continuing to grow in the world pharmaceutical market. The three key therapy areas for Astellas Pharma GmbH are Transplantation, Urology and Dermatology. Astellas Deutschland GmbH, Munich emerged by spin off from Astellas Pharma GmbH, the German subsidiary of Astellas Pharma Inc., Tokyo, Japan. All manufacturing assets as well as all assets to legacy products from the predecessors Klinge Pharma and Fujisawa Deutschland have been transferred to Astellas Deutschland GmbH together with the respective license business. For more information: [www.Astellas.de](http://www.Astellas.de)

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