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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MUNDIPHARMA AND GRÜNENTHAL FORGE AGREEMENT TO FURTHER
MARKET NORSPAN™ – WORLD'S FIRST 7-DAY PATCH FOR CHRONIC
PAIN**

Cambridge, UK & Aachen, Germany – April 25, 2006: Mundipharma International Limited and Grünenthal GmbH announce the signing of an agreement that will help to bring Norspan™, the world's first 7-day transdermal patch for the treatment of moderate to severe opioid-sensitive chronic pain, to pain patients across Europe.

The agreement provides a framework for Grünenthal to market Norspan™ 5, 10 and 20mg buprenorphine transdermal patches for 7-day use in Germany, Portugal, Austria, Luxembourg, Hungary, Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. In return for these rights Grünenthal will pay Mundipharma royalties in these territories. Mundipharma retains the rights to market the 7 day buprenorphine patch in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, under the Norspan™ brand, and in the United Kingdom and Ireland as Butrans™, where the product is already available. Mundipharma is also seeking further registrations in additional European territories.

One in five Europeans suffer from high levels of chronic pain¹ and Norspan™, a 7-day transdermal patch formulation of buprenorphine (available in 5, 10 and 20mg doses), represents a significant step forward for many people who need to find relief from the devastating impact of long-term pain. Persistent pain conditions, such as chronic low back pain and osteoarthritis, cost the European economy in excess of €34 billion each year – just in absence from work alone – and Norspan™, through the provision of 7-day continuous pain control via a “matrix” patch applied to the skin, provides a valuable option in helping patients regain a normal life.

“This is an important agreement in the field of pain management. The biggest benefactor will be the many, many pain patients across Europe who are struggling to find relief from their pain” said Åke Wikström, Regional Director, Europe, Mundipharma International Ltd. “Norspan™ fills a clear therapeutic

gap, explaining in part why it has been our most successful product launch to date,” he continued.

Norspan™ is currently engaged in phase III trials in the USA, Canada Japan and China (it is already registered in Australia and Korea) where patients’ needs are at least as great as in Europe. For instance, more than 17 million people in Japan suffer from moderate to severe chronic pain, but perhaps more worrying is that 77% of these pain patients feel their pain is not adequately controlled².

“We are delighted to be able to make it possible for patients to benefit from a powerful new pain reliever in a simple and convenient 7-day patch with a low starting dose. This will make a difference to patients’ lives and is compatible with our aim of improving pain management whenever possible,” commented Rob Koremans, Member of the Executive Board, Grünenthal.

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Notes to Editors:

Chronic pain is, according to the 2001 EFIC Declaration³, a disease in its own right. It is a devastating condition and a major public health issue. Around 20 Percent of chronic pain patients will lose their job as a result of their pain and a similar number will be diagnosed with depression as a direct result of their pain⁴.

Norspan™ utilises a totally different mode of pain relief action to the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory/COXII type products. Its active ingredient, buprenorphine, is a partial agonist of the mu-opioid receptor, one of the key targets in the pain pathway. The transdermal buprenorphine patch acts by delivering a constant supply of buprenorphine into the blood stream, via the skin, which then binds to the mu-opioid receptors, preventing neurotransmission of pain signals and thus relieving the patient of the pain sensation.

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 and haemato-oncology. For more information: www.mundipharma.co.uk

About Grünenthal

Grünenthal GmbH is an independent and international pharmaceutical company, concentrating on pain therapy, gynaecology and anti-infectives. It was founded in Stolberg in 1946. The operative unit in Germany is Grünenthal GmbH located in Aachen, where production, research and development are concentrated. The research and development pipeline contains new chemical entities and advanced pharmaceutical delivery technologies. Grünenthal GmbH is currently represented in 26 countries with affiliates in virtually all European countries. Grünenthal GmbH has production sites in seven

countries. Grünenthal GmbH employs about 1.800 people in Germany and 4.800 world-wide. For more information: www.grunenthal.com.

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References:

¹ Breivik et al Survey of Chronic Pain in Europe: Prevalence, impact on daily life and treatment. European Journal of Pain. In press.

² Hattori et al Pain in Japan Pain Clinic vol.25 no.11 (2004.11)

³ European Federation of IASP (International Association for the Study of Pain) Chapters.

⁴ Breivik et al. Prevalence and impact of chronic pain: a systematic review of epidemiological studies on chronic pain. IASP 2005 (poster)