



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT  
18 AUGUST 2005**

## **NEUROSOLUTIONS TO COLLABORATE WITH EPICHEM**

NeuroDiscovery Ltd (**NeuroDiscovery**) (ASX Code:NDL), a neurology-focused biotechnology company, is pleased to announce its 100% subsidiary, NeuroSolutions Ltd (**NeuroSolutions**) has entered into a Collaborative Agreement with Epichem Pty Ltd (**Epichem**), a subsidiary of PharmAust Ltd (**PharmAust**) (ASX Code:PAA) to assist with the development of one of NeuroSolutions' lead pain drug candidates, NSL-036.

Using in-house specialist technologies, NeuroSolutions identified the potential utility of NSL-036 for the treatment of pain. An injectable version of NSL-036 has been demonstrated to be highly effective in a pre-clinical model of neuropathic pain.

In addition to progressing the development of NSL-036, NeuroSolutions and Epichem plan to utilise the injectable version of NSL-036 as a template to build compounds suitable for oral dose forms for the treatment neuropathic pain.

Epichem's synthetic and medicinal chemistry expertise will be applied in the identification and production of these potential oral drug candidates.

Following identification NeuroSolutions will apply its know-how and technology to put together an effective and efficient screening cascade for the validation of these compounds which may progress through pre-clinical and subsequently clinical development.

NeuroSolutions' Chief Executive Officer, Dr Alistair Dixon said, "It is a pleasure to announce the first of potentially a number of collaborations with companies in the Australian biopharmaceutical sector. We have identified Epichem as a key provider of both synthetic and medicinal chemistry support, and consider that their proven expertise in this area is important to the success of NeuroSolutions' drug development programme."

Epichem's Managing Director Dr Wayne Best said "We are delighted to have been chosen by NeuroSolutions to work with them on this exciting project. Our two companies have highly developed and complimentary skills and we look forward to a long and productive relationship with them."

**-ENDS-**

*For further information please contact:*

*David McAuliffe*  
*Executive*  
*NeuroDiscovery*  
*Mobile: 0408 994 313*  
[macdavid@inet.net.au](mailto:macdavid@inet.net.au)

*Dr Wayne Best*  
*Executive*  
*Epichem Pty Ltd*  
*+61 8 9360 7696*  
[wayne.best@epichem.com.au](mailto:wayne.best@epichem.com.au)

## Background Information

### **About NeuroDiscovery**

NeuroDiscovery Ltd is an ASX listed neurology research and development company which owns 100% of NeuroSolutions Ltd (ASX Code NDL).

### **About NeuroSolutions**

NeuroSolutions Limited is a profitable service company, applying its broad expertise and drug discovery platforms to become a leading provider of specialised electrophysiological assays to the biopharmaceutical industry. Electrophysiology is a specialised technique which is used to record electrical activity in membranes, cells, tissues or in vivo. NeuroSolutions current clients include many other established pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. In parallel to running its service business, the Company is also exploiting its in house technologies and expertise for its own internal R&D and has a mature pipeline of programmes underway for the treatment of pain.

### **About EpiChem**

Epichem Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of PharmAust Limited with branches in Perth and Melbourne. It provides synthetic and medicinal chemistry services to the international and national drug discovery and pharmaceutical industries.

Epichem's state-of-the-art laboratories are among the best-equipped facilities for the synthesis of new drug analogues in the Southern Hemisphere. Since opening in February 2004, Epichem has rapidly expanded and is now undertaking contract work for some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. Epichem is also generating its own intellectual property through collaborative research programs.

### **About Neuropathic Pain**

Neuropathic pain is defined by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) as 'any pain syndrome in which the predominating mechanism is a site of aberrant somatosensory processing in the peripheral or central nervous system. Some clinical neuroscientists restrict this definition to pain originating in peripheal nerves and nerve roots.'

Despite continuing intensive research, the treatment of these disorders remains surprisingly poor. Current therapies for neuropathic pain and post-operative hyperalgesia are based on "off label" use of gabapentin, CNS depressants or largely ineffective long-term opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). New participants in the neuropathic pain market have been greatly encouraged by this unmet medical need among end- users, as it provides them with the perfect opportunity to move into this space. It is forecasted that revenues in the sector will rise from \$2.48 billion in 2003 to \$4.83 billion by 2010 (Frost & Sullivan, 2004).