



Newron initiates development of NW-3509

- **Compound shows promise in the treatment of psychiatric and neurological diseases**
- **Further validation of Newron's ion channel discovery program**

Milan, Italy – December 3, 2007 - Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A. ("Newron", SWX: NWRN), a research and development company focused on novel Central Nervous System (CNS) and pain therapies, today announced the initiation of the preclinical development of its compound NW-3509.

NW-3509 is an innovative compound from a new chemical class. It is a potent and highly specific sodium channel blocker, strongly modulating neuronal firing and showing a fast onset of action. These characteristics indicate that it may have potential in conditions such as acute mania and other CNS indications.

Dr. Patricia Salvati, Newron co-founder and Vice President Discovery, said: "We are excited by the very promising characteristics shown to date by NW-3509 in preliminary pharmacological and toxicological studies; we will now initiate IND-enabling studies. NW-3509 is further proof of our know-how in identifying and developing promising ion channel based compounds, alongside ralfinamide, today one of Newron's key late-stage clinical development compounds."

About Mania

Mania is a severe medical condition characterized by extremely elevated mood, energy, and unusual thought patterns. There are several possible causes for mania, but it is most often associated with bipolar disorder, where episodes of mania may cyclically alternate with episodes of clinical depression. These cycles may relate to diurnal rhythms and environmental stressors. Mania varies in intensity, from mild mania (known as hypomania) to full-blown mania with psychotic features (hallucinations and delusions).

Symptoms of mania include rapid speech, racing thoughts, decreased need for sleep, hypersexuality, euphoria, grandiosity, and increased interest in goal-directed activities. Mild forms

of mania, known as hypomania, cause little or no impairment, but most people who suffer from prolonged hypomania due to bipolar disorder develop full mania.

Although there are many drugs approved for the treatment of mania, there is significant unmet medical need, as treatment of mania is characterized by high rates of premature termination due to lack of efficacy, side effects incl. weight gain, cognitive slowing, changes in blood and kidney function, etc. Treatment of mania is also characterized by a high rate of relapse. The total market for bipolar disorder is expected to exceed \$6bn in 2007, growing at 16% (2006-07, CAGR, Datamonitor).

About Newron Pharmaceuticals

Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A. (www.newron.com) is a biopharmaceutical company focused on novel therapies for diseases of the Central Nervous System and pain. Newron is undertaking phase III trials with safinamide for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease (PD) in conjunction with its partner, Merck Serono, which has exclusive worldwide rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize the compound in PD, Alzheimer’s disease, and other therapeutic applications. Newron is conducting phase II trials with ralfinamide for the treatment of neuropathic and post surgical (dental) pain. A recently completed phase II placebo controlled study in neuropathic pain demonstrated the efficacy of ralfinamide, as well as positive effects on sleep and the ability to perform daily activities. The drug was well tolerated, with side effects comparable to placebo. Newron’s clinical pipeline is supported by a portfolio of early-stage proprietary compounds generated by its ion channel drug discovery platform. Newron is headquartered in Bresso, near Milan, Italy. The company is listed at SWX Swiss Exchange, trading symbol NWRN.

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