

## NEWS

### **BENITEC LTD. GRANTS WORLDWIDE ddRNAi LICENSE TO GENOWAY**

**March 22, 2005**

**Mountain View, CA - Benitec Ltd. (ASX:BLT)** announces that it has granted a world-wide, non-exclusive commercial license to genOway (Lyon, France) to develop transgenic animals using DNA-directed RNA interference (ddRNAi). This agreement grants genOway the freedom to provide customers with cutting edge *in vivo* RNAi technologies to facilitate the drug discovery process from target validation to safety studies. Benitec will receive an up-front license fee and on-going royalties, however, specific financial details were not disclosed.

genOway is regarded throughout Europe as a premier company in the customized creation of highly-advanced mouse and rat models that can be used both in basic research and in drug discovery. genOway holds intellectual property rights to multiple processes for developing animal models and offers a full range of solutions for both gene expression and gene inactivation in mouse and rat models.

Alexandre Fraichard, CEO of genOway, stated “Our innovative proprietary *in vivo* RNAi platform, including RNAi Quick Knock-in™, Inducible *in vivo* RNAi™, and Conditional *in vivo* RNAi™, is already a business success with pharmaceutical companies. This license will strengthen our product offerings by guaranteeing our customers complete freedom to operate for the use of our transgenic animals on a world-wide basis and with no follow-on right or claim on the results. This license combined with our proprietary technologies positions genOway as the best partner for the biopharmaceutical industry.”

Sara M. Cunningham, CEO of Benitec, commented “We are impressed with genOway’s capabilities and particularly their expertise in *in vivo* RNAi for mice and rats. ddRNAi is a powerful platform that significantly decreases the time required to create transgenic animals used in the drug discovery process, and thus the time to market for small molecule, protein-based, and nucleic acid therapeutics. We are pleased to grant genOway these rights to use our technology.”

#### **About Benitec**

Benitec is an international biotechnology company focused on developing therapeutics to treat serious diseases using its proprietary RNAi technology. Benitec (ASX: BLT) is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and has its clinical operations centered in the heart of Silicon Valley in Mountain View, California, USA. Its lead therapeutic programs are designed to create novel RNAi-based therapies for the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Benitec’s RNA-based HIV therapeutic, co-developed with the Center for Biomedicine & Genetics at the [City of Hope](#) in Los Angeles, California, will enter Phase I clinical trials in 2006.

#### **About genOway:**


genOway is a biotech company created in 1999 that provides academic research centers and the pharmaceutical industry with genetically-modified models used in the target validation, drug screening, pharmacology, physiology and toxicology studies. The company has customers in 19

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countries across Europe and North-America, and has developed a flexible and comprehensive offer, from gene cloning through to the phenotyping of models. genOway also develops proprietary models that “mimic” human responses.

**Benitec Forward-looking Statements**

*This press release contains forward-looking statements that reflect the Company's current expectations regarding future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual events could differ materially from those projected herein and depend on a number of factors including the success of the Company's research strategy, the applicability of the discoveries made therein, the successful and timely completion of clinical studies and the uncertainties related to the regulatory process.*

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