

Benitec receives \$650K investment support

28 December 2006, Melbourne, Australia: As previously announced (October 2006) Benitec Limited (ASX:BLT) secured a \$1 million unsecured loan from a sophisticated Australian investor Dr Chris Bremner. The final instalment of \$650,000 from this loan was received by the company overnight.

As also previously announced the Board has agreed to allow Dr Bremner to convert the loan into shares, to take a placement of stock and to underwrite a rights issue to raise additional capital for the company. Shareholders will need to approve these transactions. It is expected that the Notice of General Meeting will go out to shareholders in January 2007. Once this General Meeting has been held, so that shareholders can consider the conversion of this loan into shares, a prospectus for a non-renounceable rights issue will also be sent to all shareholders for consideration.

"Dr Bremner supported the company at a difficult time when its share price was below 3 cents. We have seen the share price increase since then however understand that significant rebuilding is still required. We are pleased that the Benitec recovery plan to rebuild shareholder value is moving forward in such a positive way and we are confident that 2007 will be a much better year for Benitec and its shareholders" said the Benitec CEO Sue MacLeman.

The Directors also announced today that while there had been a minor delay in the commencement of the Phase I study in HIV Lymphoma at the City of Hope they were confident that this study would commence shortly.

CONTACT:

BENITEC LTD

Sue MacLeman
Chief Executive Officer
+61 437 211 200

Rudi Michelson
Monsoon Communications
+61 411 402 737

About Benitec

Benitec is an Australian biotechnology company focused on licensing its extensive intellectual property portfolio and developing therapeutics to treat serious diseases using its proprietary ddRNAi technology. Its current therapeutic program is focused on 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 early 2007. For additional information, please visit www.benitec.com.

Forward-looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements that reflect the Companies' 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 Companies' 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.