

ASX/Media Announcement

Mel Bridges appointed Non-Executive Director

12 October 2007, Melbourne, Australia: Gene silencing drug development company Benitec Limited (ASX: BLT) has appointed Mr Mel Bridges as non-executive director. Mr Bridges is well known for his healthcare management and industry investment acumen in an impressive list of biotech companies.

Mr Bridges brings more than 30 years of global experience in the biotechnology and healthcare industries. During his career he has founded and developed successful diagnostics, biotechnology and medical device companies and also held senior management positions in Chicago-based Baxter Healthcare.

Mel is currently Non-Executive Chairman of Peptech, one of Australia's successful biotechnology companies. He was a director of the Domantis board participating in the successful trade sale for A\$575 million to GlaxoSmithKline, from which Peptech gained A\$178 million as part of its shareholding.

His other board positions include Chairman of another blue chip biotech, Alchemia Limited. He is also Chairman of a number of listed and unlisted companies. He is the founder and Non-Executive Director of the medical device company ImpediMed Ltd. Mr Bridges co-founded listed company PANBIO raising \$17 million in its IPO.

Mr Bridges has won numerous awards for his achievements including the Ernst and Young 2002 Entrepreneur of the Year. In 2004 he was anointed the Queensland Entrepreneur of the Year, and in 2005 industry group AusBiotech awarded him the Chairman's Industry Gold Medal for contributions to the Australian biotech industry.

"Mel is one of the most commercially savvy directors in Australian healthcare," said Peter Francis, Chairman of Benitec. "We will rely on Mel to help with drug commercialisation and working with future licence partners across Benitec's pipeline of drug candidates."

Mel has a Bachelor of Science and he is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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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). For additional information, please visit www.benitec.com.