BioCryst Announces Two Additional Peramivir Partnerships

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan 11, 2010 /PRNewswire via COMTEX News Network/ -- BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: BCRX) today announced that it has signed agreements with two additional partners who will exclusively represent BioCryst and its anti-viral peramivir for influenza stockpiling opportunities for territories outside of the U.S. BioCryst's new partners are Merck Serono for Europe, Russia, Canada and Singapore and Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, excluding Israel. BioCryst and its seven regional partners for peramivir cover all major and the majority of smaller pharmaceutical markets globally.

"Each of these companies has strong commercial infrastructures and established regulatory contacts in their respective territories, making them attractive partners for peramivir within these important markets," said Jon P. Stonehouse, President and Chief Executive Officer of BioCryst Pharmaceuticals. "BioCryst has received peramivir emergency use inquiries from various countries in these regions, and we look forward to working with Merck Serono and Hikma to make peramivir available during the ongoing influenza pandemic."

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, Merck Serono is the division for innovative prescription pharmaceuticals of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a global pharmaceutical and chemical company. Merck Serono reported 2008 revenues of approximately euro 5 billion.

Headquartered in London, Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC is a fast growing multinational group focused on developing, manufacturing and marketing a broad range of both branded and non-branded generic and in-licensed products. Hikma's operations are based principally in the MENA region, where it is a market leader. Hikma reported 2008 revenue of $581 million.

BioCryst is currently enrolling patients in two peramivir Phase 3 studies intended to support U.S. regulatory approval for influenza. Approximately 300 study locations are targeted to participate in these studies globally.

About peramivir

Peramivir is a potent, intravenously administered anti-viral agent that rapidly delivers high plasma concentrations to the sites of infection. Discovered by BioCryst, peramivir inhibits the interactions of influenza neuraminidase, an enzyme which is critical to the spread of influenza within a host. In laboratory tests, peramivir has shown activity against multiple influenza strains, including pandemic H1N1 swine origin flu viral strains. Peramivir has been studied in over 1800 patients with complicated and uncomplicated influenza. Shionogi & Co., Ltd. has filed for regulatory approval in Japan. On October 23, 2009, BioCryst announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for intravenous peramivir in certain adult and pediatric patients with confirmed or suspected 2009 H1N1 influenza A infection who are admitted to a hospital. Additional information regarding the peramivir EUA is available on the web at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/eua/.

About BioCryst

BioCryst Pharmaceuticals designs, optimizes and develops novel small-molecule pharmaceuticals that block key enzymes involved in infectious diseases, cancer and inflammatory diseases. BioCryst has progressed two novel compounds into late-stage pivotal clinical trials; peramivir, an anti-viral for influenza, and forodesine, a purine nucleoside phosphorylase (PNP) inhibitor forcutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL). Utilizing crystallography and structure-based drug design, BioCryst continues to discover additional compounds and to progress others through pre-clinical and early development to address the unmet medical needs of patients and physicians. For more information, please visit the Company's Web site at www.biocryst.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements, including statements regarding future results, performance or achievements. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performances or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that could affect the forward-looking statements contained herein include: that the U.S. government and ex-U.S. governments may choose not to issue additional orders for peramivir and such orders, if any, may not be profitable for BioCryst; that to the extent peramivir is used as a treatment for H1N1 flu (or other strains of flu), there can be no assurance that it will prove effective; that HHS may further condition, reduce

or eliminate future funding of the peramivir program; that ongoing peramivir clinical trials or our peramivir program in general may not be successful; that BioCryst or its licensees may not commence as expected additional human clinical trials with our product candidates; that our product candidates may not receive required regulatory clearances from the FDA; that ongoing and future pre-clinical and clinical development may not have positive results; that we or our licensees may not be able to continue future development of our current and future development programs; that our development programs and partnerships may never result in future product, license or royalty payments being received by BioCryst; that BioCryst may not be able to retain its current pharmaceutical and biotechnology partners for further development of its product candidates or it may not reach favorable agreements with potential pharmaceutical and biotechnology partners for further development of its product candidates; that our actual cash burn rate may not be consistent with our expectations; that BioCryst may not have sufficient cash to continue funding the development, manufacturing, marketing or distribution of its products and that additional funding, if necessary, may not be available at all or on terms acceptable to BioCryst. Please refer to the documents BioCryst files periodically with the Securities and Exchange Commission, specifically BioCryst's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, most recent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and current reports on Form 8-K, all of which identify important factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those contained in our projections and forward-looking statements.

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