

November 05, 2004 – News Release

## **Neuronova AG and Prestwick Chemical Inc. Collaborate on the Optimisation of a Novel Lead Compound for the Treatment of Depression**

Munich, Germany; Illkirch, France - Neuronova AG, a biopharmaceutical company developing novel drugs against depression, and Prestwick Chemical Inc., an expert in medicinal chemistry, have entered into a collaboration by which Prestwick Chemical will apply its integrated medicinal chemistry platform to optimise a small molecule compound with antidepressant properties identified by Neuronova.

The compound interacts with a novel target proprietary to Neuronova which is involved in the development of depression and bipolar affective disorders. Resulting drugs are expected to act faster and address larger patient segments than current antidepressants.

Prof. Camille Wermuth, President and Chief Scientific Officer of Prestwick Chemical Inc. said: "The goal of our collaboration is to transform the original hit found by the scientists of Neuronova into a valuable clinical candidate. Following a structure activity study, we will focus on increasing its potency, selectivity, and its oral bioavailability."

Dr. Herbert Stadler, Chief Executive Officer of Neuronova AG, commented: "The chemistry expertise provided by Prestwick Chemical ideally complements our in-house behavioural pharmacology program and the collaboration will accelerate the development of Neuronova's programs into clinical development".

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## Notes to Editors

### **About Neuronova AG:**

Neuronova AG is a biopharmaceutical company implementing novel concepts for the treatment of depression and anxiety. The Company has unique capabilities to discover and develop drugs based on pioneering neurological and genetic findings in the field of affective disorders. These drugs address the increasing need for more comprehensive and faster-acting treatments with less side-effect. Neuronova was founded in 2002 as a spin-off from the renowned Max-Planck-Institute of Psychiatry, a world leader in the field of neuroscientific research and development. A strong team of executives and scientists with long-term industry experience contribute to Neuronova's progress. Neuronova raised its first round of venture financing in late 2003, led by Life Sciences Partners. The Company is based in Munich.

[www.neuronova.de](http://www.neuronova.de)

### **About Prestwick Chemical Inc.:**

Prestwick Chemical Inc. ("PCI") was founded in 1999 by Professor C.G. Wermuth to assist scientists discover drugs for promising targets by providing innovative smart libraries. It has since extended its activity to providing medicinal chemistry services and original research scaffolds to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as academic research laboratories. Located in Illkirch, near Strasbourg, France, and currently employing 42 people, PCI now offers a broad range of expertise in medicinal chemistry and particularly in hit and lead optimisation.

[www.prestwickchemical.com](http://www.prestwickchemical.com)