

**February 7, 2005 – News Release**

## **Affectis Pharmaceuticals AG Announces Target Validation Collaboration with Mitsubishi Pharma**

Munich, Germany, -- Affectis Pharmaceuticals AG announced today that it has signed a collaboration agreement with Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation for the development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of affective disorders. Under the terms of the agreement, Affectis will apply its pioneering target validation technology and its exclusive animal models for the validation of Mitsubishi Pharma's gene targets involved in depression and anxiety.

Today, one of the major challenges in developing optimised drugs against affective disorders is the limited availability of suitable animal models and sufficient expertise in selecting promising targets and leads as well as their preclinical development. Affectis' team has more than 10 years experience in developing, performing and interpreting behavioural assays and animal models of diseases such as depression and anxiety.

"We are very glad to bring our unique expertise into the partnership with Mitsubishi Pharma, one of the leading players of the global pharmaceutical industry," Dr Herbert Stadler, Chief Executive Officer of Affectis Pharmaceuticals AG, comments. "Since the foundation of Affectis in late 2002, we have attracted several internationally renowned partners and continuously strengthened our position as a leading research and development organisation in the field of affective disorders."

Dr Nakajima, Executive Officer/General Manager of the Pharmaceutical Research Unit for Mitsubishi Pharma commented: "By choosing Affectis Pharmaceuticals as solutions provider for the validation of drug targets, we are ideally positioned to speed up the development of our target pipeline and potentially provide new treatment options for affective disorders."

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## Notes to Editors

### **About Affectis Pharmaceuticals AG:**

Affectis Pharmaceuticals AG (formerly 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 antidepressants with less side-effect. Affectis was founded in 2002 as a spin-off from the renowned Max-Planck-Institute of Psychiatry, a world leader in the field of psychiatric research. A strong team of executives and scientists with long-term industry experience contribute to Affectis' progress. The Company raised its first round of venture financing in late 2003, led by Life Sciences Partners. Affectis is based in Munich, Germany.

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

### **About Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation:**

Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation is a global research-driven pharmaceutical company targeting the therapeutic areas of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, psychiatric and central nervous system diseases, immunological and respiratory diseases, and cancer and hepatic diseases. This company was founded by the merger between former Welfide Corporation and Mitsubishi-Tokyo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., on October 1, 2001. Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation has established a strong drug discovery infrastructure to engage in the development of innovative new drugs.

[www.m-pharma.co.jp](http://www.m-pharma.co.jp)