



**Crucell enters development and commercialization
agreement with Centocor for human antibodies against
cancer
- Crucell retains European rights -**

Leiden, The Netherlands, August 16, 2001 - Crucell N.V. (NASDAQ: CRXL; Euronext Amsterdam: CRUC) today announced that it has entered into an agreement with Centocor, Inc., for the development and commercialization of Crucell's CD46-specific human antibodies for the treatment of cancer. Centocor will pay Crucell upfront, annual and milestone fees until product launch, and royalties afterwards.

Under the terms of the deal, Centocor, a Johnson & Johnson company, will be responsible for worldwide development and manufacturing. Crucell has retained exclusive commercialization rights for the European Union and may purchase the CD46-specific antibodies manufactured by Centocor. Furthermore, Crucell will be entitled to utilize Centocor's registration files for obtaining European approval, in return for royalties. Centocor has commercialization rights for the US, Japan, and the rest of the world.

Antibodies against tumor-specific targets can be used to eliminate tumors while minimizing damage to nearby cells and tissues. The CD46 variant is a tumor-specific target which is uniquely expressed on the cell surface of various tumors such as multiple myeloma, colorectal cancer and breast cancer. Crucell has identified the CD46 variant and generated fully human antibodies against it through its proprietary MAbstract™ target discovery and human antibody technology.

About MAbstract™ target discovery and fully human antibody technologies

MAbstract™ allows the identification of targets which are typically overseen by genomics and proteomics approaches. In addition, MAbstract™ presents the unique feature of identifying and validating targets as well as generating fully human antibodies. MAbstract™ is based on phage antibody-display libraries, subtraction and selection technology and antibody engineering technologies.

Currently, Crucell has five fully human antibodies in various stages of pre-clinical development for the treatment of colon cancer, breast cancer, anti-angiogenesis, leukemia and inflammation. Additional programs have been launched in oncology, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

About Crucell

Crucell, a leading biotechnology company, discovers and develops biopharmaceutical products that utilize the immune system to combat disease. Crucell's human technology platforms, MAbstractTM and PER.C6TM, are applicable for discovery and development of antibody and vaccine products.

Crucell's MAbstractTM discovery and development programs are focused on human antibody-based therapeutics for treatment of cancer and inflammatory diseases. Crucell's vaccine programs are focused on the prevention and treatment of influenza and other infectious diseases. Crucell enters into licensing or co-development agreements for its in-house products, or starts new target discovery and product development programs with partners.

Crucell's PER.C6TM fully human production cell line technologies are made available under license agreements for antibodies, proteins, vaccines and vector technology applications. Crucell has currently signed 18 PER.C6TM agreements with major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Crucell has a listing on NASDAQ and Euronext, and has raised EUR 144 million in its October 2000 IPO. Crucell currently employs approximately 130 people in its facilities in Leiden and Utrecht.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve inherent risks and uncertainties. We have identified certain important factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in such forward-looking statements. See our Registration Statement, as filed on Form F-1 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on October 26, 2000, (the "Registration Statement") and the section of the Registration Statement entitled "Risk Factors."

For further information please contact:

Crucell N.V.

Dinko Valerio

Tel. +31-(0)71 524 87 47

Fax. +31-(0)71 524 87 20

d.valerio@crucell.com

Noonan Russo Ltd

Veronica Sellar

Tel. +44-(0)20-7726 4452

Fax. +44-(0)20-7726 4453

v.sellar@noonanrusso.co.uk

Noonan Russo U.S.

Lisa Baumgartner

Tel. +1-212-696 4455 ext.245

Fax. +1-212-696-9180

l.baumgartner@noonanrusso.com

Hill & Knowlton Nederland B.V.

Jeroen van Seeters

Tel. +31-(0)20- 404 4707

Fax.+31-(0)20 – 644 9736

Jvseeters@hillandknowlton.com