



CeNeS launches novel pain drug

and establishes specialised hospital sales force

Cambridge, UK, September 6, 2001 - CeNeS Pharmaceuticals plc (LSE: CEN) today announced that it had launched Xefo, a novel analgesic for the treatment of post-operative pain, in the UK.

Xefo, which is already marketed in several countries, was acquired from Nycomed Pharma earlier in 2001 and will be marketed through CeNeS' pharmaceutical business that was established in October 2000 with the acquisition of three CNS products from GlaxoWellcome.

Xefo has potent analgesic properties comparable to the standard dosage of other drugs such as morphine, tramadol or pethidine. It is particularly suitable for use in the day case setting, where potent analgesic effect with minimal side effects is important to support rapid patient discharge from hospital. Xefo has been developed by Nycomed Pharma's research and is available as injection and tablet formulations.

Commenting, Daniel Roach, Chief Executive of CeNeS, said:

"The launch of Xefo gives us the opportunity to market a new product in one of our core areas of expertise. Our pharmaceutical sales force will allow us to continue to build this division that is already generating significant revenues in line with our strategy. Xefo has major potential in the pain management market. Longer term we will be using our sales and marketing presence to launch our own in-house developed products. "

CeNeS is a biopharmaceutical company specialising in the development and commercialisation of drugs for CNS disorders and pain control. The company currently markets three products, and has a research and development pipeline targeting pain, stroke, schizophrenia, addiction, sleep disorders, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. CeNeS also has a cognitive division, which markets CANTAB, a computerised cognitive test, and a drug delivery division. In addition it has a range of platform technologies including AutoPatch™ its unique automated patch clamping technology. The group has around 130 staff working from modern research and manufacturing facilities in Cambridge, England, Irvine, Scotland and Boston, USA.

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Notes to Editors

Xefo is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug with potent analgesic properties comparable to the standard dosage of other drugs such as morphine, tramadol or pethidine. Xefo is already approved in the UK, and will be promoted in hospitals by CeNeS for the treatment of post-operative pain. Xefo has a short half-life and is particularly suitable for use in the day case setting, where potent analgesic effect with minimal opioid side effects is important to support rapid patient discharge from hospital. Nycomed Pharma has completed several clinical trials with Xefo in post-operative pain, including comparative studies with opioids and a post marketing safety study involving more than 4000 patients.