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Epichem in GlaxoSmithKline- Funded Research Project

Echo Technologies Limited is pleased to announce that Epichem Limited (EHO 80%) will take part in a major research project aimed at discovering new treatments to combat parasitic diseases, funded by pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

In collaboration with the world renowned Murdoch University Parasitology Group, Epichem will supply synthetic and medicinal chemistry services to the ongoing research project.

Epichem Managing Director, Dr Wayne Best said: "This research project has already produced a range of novel compounds with exciting activity against a number of untreatable parasitic diseases including African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), American trypanosomiasis (Chagas' disease) and leishmaniasis (kala-azar).

Dr Best has been closely involved in the project since its inception in January 2002 through his previous position at the Chemistry Centre (WA). He said both Epichem and Murdoch University were delighted with the new collaboration, which will allow Epichem to fast-track research using its state-of-the-art parallel synthesis equipment.

Epichem provides synthetic and medicinal chemistry services to the lucrative drug discovery and pharmaceutical industries, estimated to be worth \$2 billion per annum globally.

Epichem's new facility, opened this month by WA Minister for State Development, Clive Brown, is one of Australia's top drug discovery laboratories. Its specialised facilities allow for the **rapid synthesis and purification of multiple drug compounds**, meaning drugs can be created and tested at a record pace.

"The Echo Board is excited about Epichem's future and looks forward to some positive results and opportunities as the project develops," Echo Technologies Managing Director, Bryant McLarty, said.

Background

Echo Technologies acquired 80% of Epichem Pty Ltd in October 2003. Epichem provides highly specialised chemistry services on a contract basis to international and Australian drug development and biotechnology companies and is developing its own suite of intellectual property-generating research and development in pre-clinical drug discovery.

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