

For Immediate Release

Biota raises \$31 million

Melbourne, Australia, 27 October 2005 – Biota Holdings Limited (ASX: BTA) announced today that it had raised approximately \$31 million from its Share Purchase Plan (SPP), which closed on 12 October. The Company received applications from over 6,800 shareholders.

Under the terms and conditions of the SPP, the shares will be issued on Wednesday 2 November 2005, and quotation of the new shares on the ASX is expected to commence on the same day. After this allotment, Biota's issued capital will increase to approximately 178 million shares.

The SPP was limited to a maximum of 41 million new shares (30% of issued capital) and there will be a small scale back of all applications. On 3 November 2005, Transaction Confirmation Statements will be despatched to successful applicants with a refund cheque.

Details of the scale back are as follows

Shares applied for	Shares allotted	Refund cheque
6,579	6,420	\$120.80
5,264	5,136	\$96.64
3,948	3,852	\$72.48
2,632	2,568	\$48.32

All identified multiple applications have been refunded under the terms of the Share Purchase Plan.

About Biota

Biota is a world-leading antiviral drug discovery company with its headquarters in Melbourne, Australia. Biota's first breakthrough was the discovery of zanamivir, the first neuraminidase inhibitor, subsequently marketed by GlaxoSmithKline as Relenza™ for the treatment of influenza. In partnership with Thermo Electron, Biota markets the FLU OIA® diagnostics range for the rapid detection of influenza. In partnership with Sankyo, Biota is engaged in the development of second generation flu antivirals (LANI or *Long Acting Neuraminidase Inhibitors*). Biota also has active discovery and development programs aimed at new therapies for diseases caused by Human Rhinovirus (common cold), RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), HIV, and hepatitis C.

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