

For Immediate Release

Biota appoints new CEO

Melbourne, Australia—2nd December 2005.

Biota Holdings Limited (ASX: BTA) announced today the appointment of Mr. Peter Cook as CEO and Managing Director.

Mr. Cook was previously CEO of Orbital Corporation Limited, prior to which he was CEO of Hospital Pharmaceuticals for F.H Faulding & Co. Limited. Mr. Cook has also held senior global management positions with Ansell Australia, most recently as President, Protective Products, and was a Board member of Ansell International from 1991 to 1999.

Announcing the appointment, Biota's Chairman, Mr John Grant commented, "Peter Cook is an experienced Chief Executive with a proven track record in building profitable, innovation-based businesses, both locally and internationally."

"Peter joins us at a very exciting and important phase in Biota's development. We are seeing renewed interest in Biota's ground breaking influenza anti-viral drug, Relenza, following worldwide concerns about Avian flu and consequent Government stockpiling of antivirals. In addition, Biota is steadily progressing its product pipeline and expects to commence human clinical trials for three respiratory antiviral drugs over the next twelve months to two years. Biota will be actively seeking licensing partnership opportunities as these clinical trials achieve appropriate milestones.

Peter Cook has the necessary leadership, strategic and commercial experience and capability to realise the value of our world-class discoveries. He has an impressive record in profitably commercialising new technology and building collaborative relationships with large international companies", Mr. Grant said.

Mr. Cook replaces Biota's outgoing US-based CEO Peter Molloy who advised the company in late August that he was unavailable to fill the Australian based role following the consolidation of the group's operations in Australia.

Mr. Cook will commence with the company on 5 December 2005, and will be based at Biota's new corporate office at Notting Hill in Melbourne, Victoria.

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About Biota

Biota is a world-leading antiviral drug discovery company with its headquarters in Melbourne, Australia. Biota was responsible for zanamivir, the first-in-class neuraminidase inhibitor, subsequently launched by GSK as Relenza™ for the treatment and prevention of influenza. Relenza is currently being stockpiled by various governments for defence against avian (bird) flu. Recent Biota research breakthroughs have included BTA798 (Human Rhinovirus, common cold), and a series of candidate drugs aimed at RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus, bronchiolitis). Biota is also engaged in early stage research targeting hepatitis C virus infection. Key partnerships: with Sankyo, Biota is developing second generation flu antivirals (called LANI or Long Acting Neuraminidase Inhibitors); with Thermo Electron, Biota developed the FLU OIA® influenza diagnostics, currently marketed in the US.

™ Relenza is a registered trademark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies

® FLU OIA is a registered trademark of Thermo Electron Corporation

**Further information available at www.biota.com.au*

Peter Chapman Cook – Career Summary

2002–2005 Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Orbital Corporation Limited, Perth, WA. Peter led the successful restructuring of the innovative engineering products and services business, establishing profitability and securing important international alliances.

2000-2001 Consultant, based in London, UK, he advised with respect to strategic planning, acquisitions and licensing.

1999-2000 Chief Executive Officer Hospital Pharmaceuticals, F.H. Faulding & Co. Limited, Adelaide SA. Faulding Hospital Pharmaceuticals developed, manufactured and marketed generic oncology injectables through offices in UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and Singapore with plants in Australia and Puerto Rico. Annual turnover was approximately \$400 million.

1990-1999 Ansell Australia. Initially appointed as Group Technical Manager and then Director Research and Development. In 1993 he was assigned global general management responsibilities initially as President of Consumer Products and from 1996 as President of Protective Products. In the latter position, Peter was responsible for annual global revenues of \$600 million and approximately 5,000 employees, with offices in North America, Asia Pacific, Europe and Latin America and manufacturing sites in Thailand, Malaysia, USA and United Kingdom. He was a Board member of Ansell International from 1991.

Earlier in his career, Peter Cook co-founded Invetech Limited in 1987 and from 1976 to 1985 he held senior positions with Nicholas Kiwi Group (now Sara Lee) as Director of Research and Development and later as Managing Director, South East Asia, based in Singapore.

He has a Bachelor and Master of Pharmacy degrees and a Master of Business Administration degree.