

For Immediate Release

Australian Government Adds Relenza to National Medicines Stockpile

Melbourne Australia—Friday 16 December 2005.

Biota Holdings Limited advise of the following announcement from the Minister for Health and Ageing, The Hon Tony Abbott MHR. GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Australia has confirmed that the announcement accurately reflects a supply contract which GSK Australia has recently signed with the Commonwealth.

The Ministers Media Release dated 16 December 2005 is as follows:

“The Commonwealth Government has negotiated the purchase of 1.8 million additional courses of the influenza antiviral Relenza to add to the National Medical Stockpile in preparation for a possible influenza pandemic.

The World Health Organization predicts that the world is overdue for the outbreak of a new strain of flu to which no human has immunity and has recommended that countries stockpile antivirals to provide one course for 25 per cent of the population.

Australia has one of the largest stockpiles of antivirals in the world. When the new supplies of Relenza plus the additional Tamiflu powder announced on the weekend are available and delivered, we will have enough antivirals to provide coverage for nearly 44 per cent of the Australian population.

Tamiflu and Relenza are both currently available treatments for flu which, it is hoped, will be effective for both prevention and treatment for exposed people during the first stages of an influenza pandemic until a vaccine is developed.

The new Relenza deliveries are expected to commence in April 2006 and be completed within 12 months.

Australia is one of the most prepared countries in the world to respond to an influenza pandemic. The Australian Government has so far committed a total of \$555 million on pandemic preparedness, which includes \$414 million on the Australian health response and \$141 million to help our regional neighbours.

For more information on Australia’s pandemic preparedness visit www.health.gov.au.”

Investor / Analyst Enquiries

Peter Cook: T: + 61 3 9915 3720
Damian Lismore: T: 61 3 9915 3721

Media Enquiries

Nerida Mossop
Hinton & Associates
T: +61 3 9600 1979
M: 0437 361 433