

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

Prima boosts funding by \$500K winning two Government BIF grants

Thursday, 4 November, 2004, Melbourne Australia: Prima BioMed (ASX: PRR) today announced it has been advised by the Federal Government's AusIndustry, that two of its R&D investment programs will receive grants totalling \$500,000 from the Biotechnology Innovation Fund. These grants are awarded after significant review by panels advising AusIndustry and are provided to accelerate early proof of principle being established in commercially focused programs.

The first project entitled, *Novel biological therapy for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis*, was awarded \$250,000 to analyse and further develop a genetically engineered, cell-free form of the Fc receptor, for future use as a treatment early in the development of rheumatoid arthritis.

"A key potential advantage of Prima's strategy is that it would lead to the development of a therapy that prevents disease, rather than only relieving the symptoms of established disease," said Mr Marcus Clark, CEO Prima Biomed.

In the second grant entitled, *Nanotechnology for Vaccine Development*, Prima's DCtag adjuvant nanotechnology also received \$250,000 which will allow further development of novel products - such as vaccines capable of preventing disease and treatments for existing disease. The project builds upon a previous program that has validated the use of a non-biodegradable material for infectious diseases in a variety of animal models. The BIF project will investigate proof of concept with a biodegradable material which is more appropriate for a vaccine adjuvant in infectious disease.

DCtag involves attaching a carrier to the vaccine protein to help deliver it to specialised immune cells (dendritic cells) that have an important role in the immune response.

This DCtag targeting has been shown in pre-clinical studies to be very effective in stimulating two components of the immune response – the formation of antibodies and cellular responses – and providing protection from otherwise lethal malaria.

Mr. Clark said, "This is a marvellous independent endorsement of the programs. With the recent, successful completion of a capital-raising, we have the matching funds and thus have the potential to extract further value from our programs."

About BIF (Biotechnology Innovation Fund) grants

The BIF program is an Australian Government competitive grants program which assists Australian biotechnology ventures by funding the demonstration of proof-of-concept, and early stage of biotechnology commercialisation. Recipients are required to match the funding granted.

About Prima BioMed Ltd

Prima BioMed (ASX: PRR) is a biotechnology company based in Melbourne and is developing technologies in the fields of immunology and cancer immunotherapy originating from the Austin Research Institute, in Melbourne, Australia.

Company Contacts:

Company Enquiries

Mr Marcus Clark 03 9854 5700

Media Enquiries

Ms Rebecca Christie 0417 382 391