

## PRESS RELEASE

### APEPTICO completes €3 million financing round

**05<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, Vienna, Austria: APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH, a biotechnology company developing novel peptide-based drugs, today announced completion of a €3 million financing round. This equity financing combined existing and new investors from Germany and Switzerland. As an integral part of the financing round, APEPTICO will receive a €1.2 million research grant from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).**

This €3 million financing round is equally shared by institutional Venture Capital companies (The BioScience Ventures Group AG and V+ GmbH & Co Fonds 2 KG) and business angels from Germany and Switzerland.

APEPTICO's lead products are synthetic peptides that convert structural elements of the human Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha into efficient, safe and new medicines. APEPTICO's target indications include treatment of Acute Lung Injury/Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, treatment of severe microbial and viral lung infections, lung transplantation and solid organ dysfunction.

The funds from the financing will be used to perform a Phase 1 clinical assessment of APEPTICO's lead peptide AP301 which has been shown to activate lung oedema reabsorption and protects both endothelial and epithelial lung cells from virulence factor- and reactive oxygen species-induced hyper-permeability of lung capillaries.

Dr. Bernhard Fischer, CEO of APEPTICO commented: "We are delighted to have secured our second equity financing with an international syndicate of venture capital and private investors. Based on the first financing round from May 2009, we completed the pre-clinical development program of our lead peptide AP301 and discovered even more peptides with improved properties. This new €3 million financing enables us to immediately initiate the early clinical development and to work on additional peptides and clinical indications."

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### About APEPTICO GmbH

APEPTICO is a privately-held biotechnology company based in Austria, developing peptide-based products targeting chronic and life-threatening diseases. The peptide molecules correspond to validated, pharmacodynamic active structures and domains of well-known proteins and biopharmaceuticals. By concentrating on synthetically produced protein structures APEPTICO avoids any risk of transmitting microbial and viral infections. Development cost and time to market are significantly reduced if compared to the recombinant development process of biomolecules. APEPTICO's development platform PEPBASE<sup>TM</sup> combines structural, functional and clinical data from relevant biopharmaceuticals and well-characterised proteins. Based on preclinical and clinical data, including adverse reactions, risk factors and contraindications to be circumvented and supported by structural, biochemical and physicochemical data, for each relevant protein a specific profile is established that links biological & functional properties with discrete structural elements.

### About AP301

AP301 is a synthetic peptide that corresponds to a structural motif of the human Tumour Necrosis Factor alpha. It is water soluble and can be administered into the lung by instillation or by inhalation. Formulated AP301 can be nebulised and the resulting aerosol is composed of peptide/water droplets of diameter 4 µm or less. AP301 was originally designed for the treatment of Acute Lung Injury and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. Additional research demonstrated that AP301 has additional significant potential in related clinical indications, such as prevention and treatment of pulmonary permeability oedema, prevention of progression of acute hypoxemic respiratory failure due to bacterial/viral pneumonia and prevention of ischemia reperfusion injury. AP301 activates lung oedema reabsorption and protects both endothelial and epithelial lung cells from virulence factor- and reactive oxygen species-induced hyper-permeability of lung capillaries. AP301 has received Orphan Drug Designation by the EMEA (European Community) for the treatment of Acute Lung Injury and by the FDA (USA) for the prevention of ischemia reperfusion injury in the lung during lung transplantation”.

### Contact

Univ.-Doz. Dr. Bernhard Fischer, Chief Executive Officer  
APEPTICO Forschung und Entwicklung GmbH  
Mariahilferstraße 136, Top 1.1.5  
1150 Vienna, Austria  
T: +43-664-1432919  
F: +43-664-1477280  
E-mail: [office@apeptico.com](mailto:office@apeptico.com)  
URL: [www.apeptico.com](http://www.apeptico.com)