

## News release

Bubendorf & Berne, 15 January 2002

# **Pevion Biotech Ltd newly established to develop vaccines against melanoma, malaria, hepatitis C and Alzheimer's disease**

**Bachem Ltd, Bubendorf, and Berna Biotech Ltd, Berne, have jointly founded Pevion Biotech Ltd to enable the two companies to pool their know-how and develop innovative vaccines. The new company is domiciled in Berne.**

Bachem Ltd in Bubendorf and Berna Biotech Ltd in Berne have joined in establishing a new company to develop innovative vaccines based on the know-how of both companies. A combination of Bachem's peptides and Berna Biotech's virosomes along with mimetic technology will be used to develop therapeutic and prophylactic vaccines against melanoma (malignant skin cancer), malaria, hepatitis C and Alzheimer's disease.

The new company, which became operational on 7 January 2002, aims to establish a leading role worldwide in the field of peptide vaccines. The Board of Directors comprises Dr. Peter Grogg (Chairman), Dr. Daniel Erne, Dr. Kuno Sommer and Dr. Reinhard Glück. The members of the Executive Board are Peter Klein (Managing Director) and Dr. Rinaldo Zurbruggen (Scientific Director). The following have been appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee: Prof. Dr. Michael Heberer (University Hospital, Basel), Prof. Dr. John A. Robinson (University of Zurich), Dr. Gerd Pluschke (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Basel) and Dr. Reinhard Glück, Chairman (Berna Biotech Ltd).

The two partners, each with a 50-percent stake in Pevion Biotech Ltd, will provide CHF 20 million as start-up capital. The new company's top priority is to develop novel vaccines against melanoma, malaria, hepatitis C and Alzheimer's disease, based on the combination of peptides and virosome technology. Pevion Biotech has set itself the target of proving the effectiveness of the new technology in animal and clinical trials within three years. The first positive results in animal models are expected in the course of this year.

*Bachem Ltd is an independent, technology-driven company which manufactures innovative products and develops processes for biochemicals and pharmaceutical active substances. A market leader in its field, the company is headquartered in Bubendorf, Switzerland, and internationally active through branches in Europe and the United States. With around 370 employees, Bachem generated sales of more than CHF 110 million and a profit of nearly CHF 49 million in the 2000 business year.*

*Berna Biotech Ltd (the former Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute Berne), an independent biotechnology company in the field of immunization, is a leading developer and producer of viral and bacterial vaccines. In the year 2000 Berna Biotech, with over 600 employees, generated sales of around CHF 200 million and a profit before restructuring costs of CHF 4.8 million. Berna Biotech is a public company with a broad shareholder base. Its shares are listed on the SWX Local Caps index.*

[www.bernabiotech.com](http://www.bernabiotech.com)

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