



John Lynch, CEO, Merrion Pharmaceuticals and Mary Harney T.D., Minister for Health and Children at the official opening of Merrion Pharmaceutical's new state of the art facility in Citywest



**Merrion's new facility at Citywest officially opened by Minister Harney
29th October 2009**

The Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D., today officially opened a purpose built facility for Merrion Pharmaceuticals at Citywest Business Campus, Dublin. (12 noon, Thursday 29th October).

This 29,500 sq. ft. pharmaceutical facility is ideal for Merrions R&D requirements and facilitates the further expansion of the company. Merrion recently paid a total of €3.75m for the facility and its pharmaceutical equipment. The state of the art facility meets all Merrion's needs at this particular time and well into the future. (See note on facility below).

Minister Harney said today, "I can well recall officially opening Merrion's facility at Trinity College in 2004. It is quite remarkable the progress made by the company since then. This facility here in Citywest now provides the company with the space and capacity it needs to develop its technology and products. It's so positive to have Irish companies, such as Merrion, who are growing despite the current recession".

John Lynch, CEO of Merrion speaking at the launch said, "We are fortunate and delighted to have found such a facility. We have been expanding rapidly over the past 12 months and we needed additional R&D space in particular, to cater for this expansion. We now have a facility, which can cater for a significant increase in staffing levels and product development. Again, today I want to thank all of our investors and partners for their ongoing and vitally important support of the company".

Merrion currently employ 40 staff, an increase of 100% in 2009.

Earlier this year Merrion entered into a Development and License Agreement with Novo Nordisk, A/S (NYSE: NVO), to develop and commercialise oral formulations of a Novo Nordisk proprietary GLP-1 receptor agonist, using Merrion's proprietary GIPET® technology. Novo Nordisk is an established world leader in diabetes treatments. This was the second license agreement between the two companies concerning Merrion's GIPET® technology – the first agreement for the development of oral insulin analogues was signed in November 2008.

Last May Merrion announced final results on its multi centre Phase II study on Merrion's Orazol™ drug (formerly known as MER 101). The final results showed that weekly therapy with 20mg Orazol™ (tablet) is as therapeutically effective as monthly treatment with the intravenous drug Zometa® (4mg) based on movements in observed levels of critical bone biomarkers. The study, conducted in hormone refractory prostate cancer patients with proven bone metastases, enrolled patients at sites in the US and Europe.

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Note on Merrion's Citywest facility

The overall size of the new Merrion facility at Citywest is 29,500 sq. ft., which includes 6,000 sq. ft. Offices, a 6,500 sq. ft. Formulation Process Development Area, a Class D clean room, 21 Processing Rooms, 4,000 sq.ft. of Analytical Laboratories, 2 GMB Labs, a Development Lab and a Feasibility Lab. There is also a 2,100 sq. ft. Warehouse included and 3,700 sq. ft. of unspecified/available for expansion space.

The facility has an IMB Licence in compliance with EU Clinical Directive for Investigational medicinal Products was granted to previous owners and also has an FDA Audit – Pre-approval for commercial production.

The facility is designed to most efficiently (lowest risk, fastest development) bring new products through the various Phases of development (experimental, Clinical Phase I, Phase II, Phase III, Registration) before it may move to an external partner for commercial production.

About Merrion:

Merrion Pharmaceuticals (www.merrionpharma.com) is a publicly listed specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the development of oral forms (tablets/capsules) of drugs that have poor absorption and are generally given by injection. Merrion was established in 2003 to commercialize various technologies acquired from Elan Corporation, plc. Merrion Pharmaceutical's patented drug delivery technologies increase bioavailability, by improving absorption in the gastrointestinal tract, of drugs that are otherwise poorly absorbed. This can provide substantial benefit in patient convenience and safety, and might also provide enhanced drug efficacy. Merrion utilizes its technology to develop new oral drugs in two ways; it develops its own proprietary drugs using GIPET and partners with other pharmaceutical companies in developing oral GIPET formulations of their products.