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## **New Pharmaceutical Substances From Nature - AnalytiCon Discovery delivers natural product libraries to Boehringer Ingelheim**

*Potsdam, Germany, 8th Feb. 2001* - AnalytiCon Discovery GmbH is entering a research cooperation with Boehringer Ingelheim, an international pharmaceutical company with headquarters in Ingelheim, Germany. As part of this contract, the Potsdam-based biotechnology company AnalytiCon Discovery is delivering natural product libraries with more than 10,000 compounds to Boehringer Ingelheim. For this, AnalytiCon Discovery is receiving up to DM 8 million. Boehringer Ingelheim has exclusive rights to use these natural product libraries for the discovery of innovative therapeutics.

"We're happy to have gained a strong partner in Boehringer Ingelheim to lay the foundation for innovative medications", Dr. Kai Bindseil, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of AnalytiCon Discovery, said. "Pure substances based on natural products occupy a central role in drug discovery & development and substantially displace traditional extract screening. In 1999 alone, nine of the 20 most frequently sold medications derived from natural products. With these, pharmaceutical companies achieved a turnover in excess of USD 16 billion", emphasized the natural product expert of AnalytiCon Discovery.

Professor Bernd Wetzels, Head of Corporate Division Research and Development at Boehringer Ingelheim: "In this cooperation, AnalytiCon Discovery is taking over the labour- and cost-intensive isolation of biologically active ingredients from complex natural product extracts. In this way, Boehringer Ingelheim obtains pure natural

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products the structures of which have been determined. This substantially expands the structural diversity of our substance pool."

In researching new pharmaceutical substances, an increasing number of pharmaceutical companies test natural product libraries containing pure compounds. AnalytiCon Discovery has a leading worldwide role in the production of exactly such libraries. What is special about these collections, termed MEGAbolite®, is that the chemical structure of the components is determined with impressive speed. With his team, Dr. Jasmin Jakupovic, Chief Scientific Officer of AnalytiCon Discovery, analyzes more than 50 structures a day of which, in experience, more than a quarter are new types of substances.

The testing of characterized pure substances has the advantage that the structure of the substances to be tested for their biological efficacy is already known. This way, the search for new active substances is accelerated many times in comparison to the screening of crude extracts or single fractions. The number of false-positives and -negatives which are not pursuable any further is many times higher in the screening of crude extracts.

## Background Information:

AnalytiCon Discovery currently works with 45 employees on the biotech campus Potsdam Hermannswerder. Along with Bayer AG and Schering Plough, two other companies

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operating on a worldwide scale, belong to the current cooperation partners using the pure substances from the MEGAbolite<sup>®</sup> program to search for active agents.

Further information about AnalytiCon Discovery is available at the internet website <http://www.ac-discovery.com>.

The Boehringer Ingelheim group of companies, with headquarters in Ingelheim (Germany) is one of the 20 leading pharmaceutical firms in the world and reported revenues of almost DEM 10 billion in 1999.

Substantial research and development, production, and distribution facilities are located around the globe. In 1999 Boehringer Ingelheim spent DEM 1.6 billion on R&D, equivalent to 16% of total sales.

As a research-driven company, Boehringer Ingelheim has R&D centres in Argentina, Austria, Canada, Germany, Japan, USA.

For more information on Boehringer Ingelheim please visit <http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com>.

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