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Bionest Partners appoints Advisory Board

Leading industry figures provide support, advice and governance to fast-growing consulting and management firm

Paris, August 23, 2004 - Bionest Partners, a provider of advisory and management services to life science companies, announces today that it has set up an Advisory Board. The Board's mission is to provide support, advice and governance, identify strategic opportunities and otherwise act as a resource for the company's active team of consultants.

"The creation of Bionest's advisory board ensures that we continue to access the best international skills and experience in the life science industry as we accelerate the build up our activities," said Alain J. Gilbert, co-founder and managing partner of Bionest Partners.

"Our consultants already provide a pool of international expertise available to our clients in business development, financing, management consulting and corporate entry into Europe strategies," said Claude Allary, also co-founder and managing partner at Bionest. "The extra level of experience, maturity of judgment and extended network of the new advisory board will provide a further guarantee of excellence for our clients."

All advisory Board members demonstrate international experience and success at a very high level in the life science industry. Bionest expects to add further to the Advisory Board as and when appropriate.

Initial appointments are:

- **Michel Gréco**, Deputy CEO and member of the Board of Aventis Pasteur, until 2003;
- **Dr. Thomas Hecht**, President and Founder of HHC Healthcare Consulting, and VP Marketing, Amgen (Europe) until 2002
- **Dr. Kees Lucas**, Director of the Office for International R&D Alliances Corporate Development, Biogen, Inc. until August 2004, and former visiting scientist at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, and Bureau of Biologics, Federal Drug Administration;
- **Tony Martin**, till 2003 Chairman, President and CEO of Molecular Probes, Inc., with previous high-level assignments at Invitrogen, Celsis and Amersham International;
- **Dr. Gunnar Weikert**, Chairman and CEO of Inventages Venture Capital GmbH, St. Prex, Switzerland, and formerly Senior VP and Global Head for Life Science Deals at Bayer AG.

Further details of Advisory Board member CVs are available on request.

About Bionest Partners

Bionest Partners provides advisory and management services to help biotechnology, specialty pharmaceutical and medical device companies and their shareholders maximize the value of their assets. The company, based in Paris and founded in 2003, has a broad customer base ranging from biotech start-ups to established companies in the biotech, medical device and pharmaceuticals fields. Bionest Partners have experience with around 70 clients including Abbott, Aventis Pasteur, Aventis Pharma, Biogen, Biosite, GSK, Idexx, Medtronic, Millennium, Pfizer and Parke Davis. Bionest jointly compiled and published a much-discussed report into the synergies of a Sanofi-Aventis merger in 2003. The company offers a hands-on approach, and its areas of expertise include management consulting (strategy, organization, marketing, due diligence, surrogate management), corporate finance (private placement, IPO support, out-licensing, in-licensing, mergers and acquisitions), entry into Europe (assessment, strategy, go-it-alone/partnering, management support). Bionest has a strong and growing team of consultants as well as a network of associate members, which it deploys to address specific client assignments.

For more information on Bionest Partners: www.bionest.com