

**Canada's Centre for Drug Research and Development and Germany's Lead Discovery Center
Enter into a Partnership to Support the Development of Novel Medicines**

DORTMUND, Germany; and VANCOUVER, Canada – June 28, 2011: The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) and the Lead Discovery Center GmbH (LDC), two leading drug discovery and development centres supporting the commercialization of research from academic institutions across Canada, from select global partners, and from Germany's Max Planck Institutes, today announced they have signed a Partnership Agreement to enable joint development of promising innovations from their broad networks. The agreement includes sharing infrastructure and expertise from LDC's and CDRD's powerful drug development platforms in order to support the organizations' shared objective of successfully translating basic research into high-quality commercial opportunities – and ultimately into new medicines that will benefit patients around the world.

Both CDRD and LDC were established in response to the recognition that it has become more and more difficult in recent years to commercialize academic health research. CDRD and LDC therefore utilize their own state-of-the-art facilities and highly-specialized business and scientific expertise as well as their broader research networks to advance innovative drug discovery projects from their affiliated research institutions to a point where they become viable investment opportunities for the private sector. In doing so, they successfully bridge the innovation and commercialization gap between academia and industry.

Karimah Es Sabar, Senior Vice President, Business & Strategic Affairs at CDRD commented, "At CDRD, we recognize that achieving our vision of transforming the culture of scientific innovation and commercialization impacting human health requires partnerships between industry and academia on a global scale. We are therefore extremely pleased to be able to expand our international alliances by establishing this formal working relationship with a world-class and highly-respected organization such as LDC. By adding LDC as an important and accomplished international partner, we are taking another step toward realizing CDRD's mission of transforming scientific innovation into commercial opportunities globally."

"The collaboration between LDC and CDRD will bring new expertise and tools to the already strong Max Planck network that we work with", said Co-CEO Bert Klebl of LDC. "There are very few organizations in the world that can truly take an early basic research idea and effectively translate it into a technology that will capture the attention of industry and venture capital companies. With CDRD, we have a partner that has developed impressive expertise in drug development and a strong network of partners that we can now count on to further accelerate our own in-house relationships and expertise. We see this as an important trans-atlantic partnership that could form the foundation of a broader, global alliance of leading drug discovery and development centres."

About CDRD

The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) (www.cdrd.ca), a not-for-profit public-private organization based in Vancouver, Canada, provides drug development expertise and infrastructure to enable researchers from leading academic and health research institutions to advance promising, early-stage drug candidates. The Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence program has recognized CDRD as a Centre of Excellence in Commercialization in Research (CECR). CDRD currently has an existing portfolio of close to 80 supported projects generated from its network of 20+ affiliated research institutions. These institutions represent billions invested in health-related research every year, and CDRD plays a pivotal role in translating that research into commercial products and economic returns including new jobs for British Columbia and Canada. For more information please visit www.cdrd.ca

About LDC

The Lead Discovery Center (LDC), a limited liability company based in Dortmund, Germany, was jointly developed by Max Planck Innovation and the Max Planck Society as a novel approach to advance findings from excellent basic research into the development of medicines.

With a world-class team of drug discovery experts and seasoned managers, the LDC offers the full scope of drug discovery services – from target to lead – according to the highest industry standards. As an independent enterprise with an entrepreneurial outlook, it is positioned as a translational drug discovery center specialized in small molecule drug discovery. LDC collaborates with research institutions and universities as well as with industry. The aim is to transform promising and early-stage projects into pharmaceutical leads that reach initial proof-of-concept in animals and that meet the increasing need for novel therapeutic agents. www.lead-discovery.de

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