Agreement Concerning Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension Treatment

RESCULA® Eye Drops

July 12, 2004 – R-Tech Ueno, Ltd. (headquartered Sanda, Hyogo, Japan) and Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (headquartered Osaka, Japan) today announced that Santen will acquire the exclusive marketing rights in Japan for RESCULA® Eye Drops (generic name: unoprostone isopropyl). On October 1 Santen will start sales of RESCULA® Eye Drops for the treatment of glaucoma and ocular hypertension. R-Tech Ueno has the approval of the drug and will provide basic strategies for marketing and promotion of the product. In addition, R-Tech Ueno will directly promote the product to some of the medical institutions through its own approximately 30 medical representatives dedicated to RESCULA® Eye Drops.

RESCULA® Eye Drops is the world’s first metabolic-type prostaglandin-based ophthalmic solution for the treatment of glaucoma and ocular hypertension, and has been highly recognized among healthcare professionals since its launch 10 years ago. RESCULA® Eye Drops has an excellent safety profile with few topical or systemic side effects. Administered twice daily, the product shows stable reduction of elevated intraocular pressure. Its neuroprotective effect and mechanism of action increasing ocular blood flow help maintain long-term visual field for glaucoma (including normal tension glaucoma) and ocular hypertension patients.

Since its founding in 1989, R-Tech Ueno has developed a swift and efficient development-oriented pharmaceutical business focused on research, development and manufacturing of prostaglandin-based pharmaceuticals. The metabolite of prostaglandin had conventionally been said to have no biological activity; however, Dr. Ryuji Ueno, founder of R-Tech Ueno, discovered an effective topical biological action, which was then successfully developed into RESCULA® Eye Drops. This year, R-Tech Ueno celebrates the 10th anniversary of the launch of RESCULA® Eye Drops. R-Tech Ueno hopes to contribute to the healthcare professionals and patients from the developer’s perspective, together with Santen, who has abundant experience and distinguished performance in the ophthalmic field.
Santen markets a number of glaucoma treatments including DETANTOL® Ophthalmic Solution, TIMOPTOL® XE and TIMOPTOL®. The agreement with R-Tech Ueno enhances Santen's glaucoma product portfolio and will allow Santen to offer more detailed therapeutic options tailored to each patient's condition. RESCULA® Eye Drops will enable Santen to further contribute to the medical field, leveraging its wealth of knowledge, its network and Japan's largest prescription ophthalmic sales organization of approximately 400 medical representatives.

RESCULA® Eye Drops was developed by Ueno Fine Chemicals Industry Ltd. with technological support from R-Tech Ueno and received manufacturing approval in 1994. In 2001, R-Tech Ueno acquired the product rights from Ueno Fine Chemicals. In Japan, Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. has marketed RESCULA® Eye Drops under an agreement with R-Tech Ueno. As announced on June 30, Fujisawa and R-Tech Ueno agreed to terminate the marketing agreement at the end of September 2004.

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