

## PRESS RELEASE

### APEPTICO GmbH closes seed financing round

**29<sup>th</sup> May, 2009, Vienna, Austria: APEPTICO, a biotechnology company developing novel peptide-based drugs, announced completion of a seed financing round. The EUR 1 Mio equity financing round was led by The BioScience Ventures Group AG (BSVG, [www.bsvg.com](http://www.bsvg.com), Munich/Germany) and included the participation of the Swiss business angel Dr. Jürg Geigy. Both, BSVG and Dr. Geigy are specialised in early stage investments in the biotech industry. The completion of the financing round entitled APEPTICO to receive a grant of EUR 1.2 Mio from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).**

APEPTICO will use the allocated capital to push ahead the pre-clinical development of its lead compound AP301. AP301 is a short and chemically synthesized cyclic peptide that is being developed for the treatment of pulmonary oedema in Acute Lung Injury (ALI) / Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). Both, ALI and ARDS are life-threatening conditions with high mortality rates, and no specific therapeutic or prophylactic drug has been approved by the EMEA or FDA until now. AP301 has additional significant potential in other lung diseases, such as pneumonia and lung transplantation. Patents covering AP301 were recently granted in the EU and the USA.

APEPTICO plans to nominate further molecules for formal pre-clinical development in the future and to broaden application of its PEPBASE™ discovery platform in the field of peptide drug identification and validation.

Dr. Bernhard Fischer, CEO of APEPTICO commented: “We are delighted to have secured seed financing, especially at this time of global economic crisis. The commitment of the BSVG and Dr. Jürg Geigy demonstrates the great confidence of our investors in APEPTICO’s drug development concept.”

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## Notes to Editors

### About APEPTICO GmbH

APEPTICO is a privately-held pre-clinical stage biotechnology company based in Austria, developing peptide-based products targeting chronic and life-threatening diseases. The peptide molecules correspond to validated, pharmacodynamic active structures and domains of well-known proteins and biopharmaceuticals. By concentrating on synthetically produced protein structures APEPTICO avoids any risk of transmitting microbial and viral infections and development cost, and time to market is significantly reduced if compared to the recombinant development process of biomolecules.

APEPTICO's development platform PEPBASE™ combines structural, functional and clinical data from relevant biopharmaceuticals and well-characterised proteins. Based on preclinical and clinical data, including adverse reactions, risk factors and contraindications to be circumvented and supported by structural, biochemical and physicochemical data, for each relevant protein a specific profile is established that links biological & functional properties with discrete structural elements.

Prior to the seed financing round, APEPTICO has received pre-seed funding from Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS), from Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG) and from INITS Universitäres Gründerservice in Vienna, Austria.

### About AP301

AP301 is a synthetic peptide that corresponds to a structural motif of the human Tumour Necrosis Factor alpha. It is water soluble and can be administered into the lung as aerosol using standard nebuliser systems. AP301 has been designed for the treatment of Acute Lung Injury (ALI), Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrom (ARDS), Ventilator Associated Lung Injury (VALI), Lung Transplantation, Pneumonia and other form of the permeability oedema. ALI and ARDS are life-threatening diseases associated with mortality rates of 30% to 60%. Currently, no specific treatment is available. AP301 activates lung oedema reabsorption and protects both endothelial and epithelial lung tissue from microbial toxin- and reactive oxygen species-induced hyper-permeability.

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