

May 16, 2006
Shionogi & Co., Ltd.

Marketing Agreement for Rapid BNP Test “SHIONOSPOT[®] BNP” and the Associated Measurement System “SHIONOSPOT[®] Reader”

Osaka, May 16, 2006 — Shionogi & Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Osaka, President: Motozo Shiono) announced today that it has entered an agreement with Response Biomedical Corporation (Head Office: Burnaby, B.C., Canada, President and CEO: Bill Radvak) for the marketing of a rapid BNP (B-type natriuretic peptide) test “SHIONOSPOT[®] BNP” and the associated measurement system “SHIONOSPOT[®] Reader” in Japan. SHIONOSPOT[®] BNP is a fluorescent immunochromatographic assay co-developed with Response Biomedical using its RAMP technologies. Utilized with SHIONOSPOT[®] Reader, SHIONOSPOT[®] BNP provides rapid and easy-to-use quantitative measurement of BNP in whole blood samples at clinics and other point-of-care locations in approx. 16 minutes. Results of SHIONOSPOT[®] BNP demonstrate excellent correlation of results with existing BNP measurement methods.

The existing BNP assay MI02 SHIONOGI BNP is primarily marketed to mega clinical laboratories. However, market needs are growing for a point-of-care diagnostics and system that enable rapid quantitative testing. Shionogi believes the introduction of the new test and associated devices to meet these needs will further the contribution of BNP testing in assessing the clinical condition of heart failure patients.

One of the target areas Shionogi focuses on in its prescription drugs is metabolic syndrome, primarily the hyperlipidemia treatment Crestor. The addition of the new BNP test and associated devices will enable Shionogi to contribute widely from diagnosis to treatment in the cardiovascular field.

About B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP)

BNP is a peptide that is released from the heart. It has the potential to detect early stage of heart failure, and it reflects severity of the heart failure. In blood tests, measuring BNP levels is the proprietary way to estimate cardiac function. Because BNP levels help detect cardiac dysfunction when it is the very early stage, BNP assays are widely used in Japan and overseas. It goes without saying that BNP assay is very valuable for cardiologists. Also it is useful for a growing number of physicians and it is used as an item of the health examination.

Outline of SHIONOSPOT[®] BNP, SHIONOSPOT[®] Reader

Trade name: SHIONOSPOT[®] BNP
Medical device approval number: 218AAAMX00032000
Measurement item: BNP (B-type natriuretic peptide)
Sample: Whole blood
Measurement incubation time: 15 minutes
Measurement range: 6-2000 pg/ml
Number of tests: 25 tests/kit
Storage temperature, Validity: 2-8 °C, 6 months
Scheduled market launch date: June, 2006

Trade name: SHIONOSPOT[®] Reader
Medical device approval number: 27B2X90002000001
Medical device classification: General medical device (specially designated maintenance management required medical device)
Dimensions/Weight: 27(W) X 25(D) X 15(H) cm, 2.1kg
Scheduled market launch date: June, 2006

About Response Biomedical Corporation

Established: 11/October/1991
Head office: Burnaby, B.C., Canada
Number of employees: 86
Representative: Bill Radvak, President and CEO
Scope of business: Manufacture and sales of clinical testing system and environmental detection system

For further information, contact:

Public Relations Unit
Shionogi & Co., Ltd.
(Osaka)
Tel: +81-6-6209-7885 Fax: +81-6 6229-9596
(Tokyo)
Tel: +81-3-3406-8164 Fax: +81-3-3406-8099

#