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***UK biotech benefits from strategic advice in clinical and commercial realization of promising research***

Eden Biodesign will provide strategic biopharmaceutical development consultancy to Edinburgh-based biotech firm Amoebics under a pre-opening assistance scheme funded by the National Biomanufacturing Centre (NBC). The objectives of the project include mapping a critical path of activities to take Amoebics novel anti bacterial pharmaceuticals into clinical trials with the overall aim of reducing time and cost but maximizing the chances of success in the clinic.

The pre-opening assistance scheme is open to any UK Biotech Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) and will operate until the NBC opens at the end of 2005, from which point Eden Biodesign will provide actual process development, analytical and early phase GMP manufacturing services worldwide.

Amoebics is the 12th company to benefit from the scheme, which provides the best possible guidance and advice for UK biotech SMEs taking biopharmaceutical products into development.

The diverse range of previous beneficiaries of the scheme include Biotech SME's such as Micap, Immunobiology and Biomer Technology and fledgling spin out companies through leading UK incubators, for example UMIP (formed from the merger of Manchester Innovation and UMIST Ventures Ltd) and MerseyBio.

Lynne Cadenhead, chief executive of Amoebics, said: "We believe Amoebics' product technology has the potential to make a huge difference in the treatment of bacterial infections, such as MRSA, but we realise that moving our products into clinical trials is a big step that requires access to a different skill-set than performing the drug discovery research."

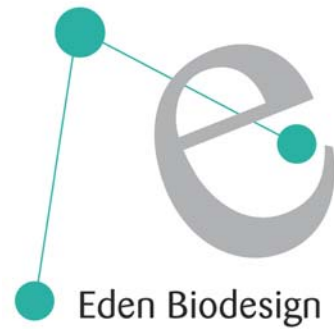
From April 2005, UK SMEs will be able to apply to an NBC access fund of nearly £3 million for grants to aid the purchase of development and manufacturing services from the NBC.

Crawford Brown, chief executive of Eden Biodesign, said: "The NBC project is designed to assist early stage biotech companies with exciting and promising technology to overcome the hurdles of drug development. This allows their technology to deliver real clinical and commercial benefits and Amoebics fits exactly into this category of business."

Funding for the NBC project, including the pre-opening assistance scheme, has been provided by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Dr Linda Magee, the NBC project director at the NWDA, said: "I am extremely pleased that the NBC project is delivering genuine value to UK biotechs, even before the centre has opened its doors. The NBC is the key part of the NWDA's vision to make Northwest England a centre of excellence for biomanufacturing in support of the UK's major activity in this sector, building on our success as the UK's current leading exporter of biopharmaceutical and pharmaceutical products, and helping to create a pipeline of projects for the industry at large."

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**Notes to editors:**

Eden Biodesign is a successful international biopharmaceutical development and manufacturing services business that provides 'state of the art' development and manufacturing services to biotech clients. Eden Biodesign has been awarded the contract to operate the UK National Biomanufacturing Centre, currently under construction in Liverpool.

Eden Biodesign promises all clients a committed service plus the knowledge and expertise to guide clients through process development, manufacturing, regulatory and technology transfer challenges.

The company uses the principles of 'Good Science' at every step of biopharmaceutical development to design programmes and processes that deliver clinically and commercially valuable products, with an accomplished and attentive level of project management that clients need.

**Amoebics** is developing a platform technology for the treatment of bacterial disease that is based upon the use of novel bacterial binding proteins isolated from soil-living strains of Amoeba. These bacterial binding proteins, which are produced using recombinant DNA technology, are modified to ensure that when they bind to infecting bacteria they trigger the bacteria's destruction by the human immune system. The company's lead product, which is targeted at the treatment of *S. aureus* infection, including MRSA, is in preclinical testing.

More information about Amoebics can be found at [www.amoebics.com](http://www.amoebics.com).

**The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)** is responsible for the sustainable economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest and has 5 key priorities: Business Development, Regeneration, Skills and Employment, Infrastructure, and Image.

For further information and to view previous press releases, please visit [www.nwda.co.uk](http://www.nwda.co.uk)

**Bionow**<sup>®</sup> has been established to encourage and nurture the growth of the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry in England's Northwest. Supported by the **Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)**, it has been recognised by the Government as an example of best practice for cluster development.

For more information on Bionow please visit: <http://www.bionow.co.uk/>