

# MORVUS OUT-LICENSES ITS RADIOSENSITISER PROGRAMME

## — SECURES DEVELOPMENT OF A KEY ONCOLOGY ASSET —

Morvus Technology Ltd, the privately-owned pharmaceutical company specialising in the discovery and commercialisation of drugs for the oncology market, announces today a transaction licensing its Morex oncology programme to Morex Development Partners (“MDP”).

MDP is a limited liability partnership formed between Morvus and an investor group led by Stephens Investments of Little Rock, Arkansas, which has invested £3.4m. MDP was formed for the development of the lead compound, MTL-005, through late pre-clinical studies into first-in-man clinical trials. MTL-005 is a novel radiation sensitiser which has potential as an adjuvant in first-line clinical radiotherapy. Such treatment is administered in as many as 66% of cancer cases, equating to some 100,000 treatments every day. MTL-005 has shown strong therapeutic enhancement in pre-clinical studies and may be used to either amplify the effect of radiotherapy or reduce dose-limiting radiation damage to normal tissue. MTL-005 will be developed initially for the treatment of brain cancers which have spread from tumours located elsewhere in the body.

MDP has appointed Professor John Caldwell as Chairman of a Management Board comprising representatives from both Morvus and Stephens. Professor Caldwell is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Liverpool and sits on numerous national and international government and industrial advisory committees and is a director of several UK healthcare companies.

The transaction was managed on behalf of MorEx Development Partners by Elixir Securities, a life sciences-focused corporate finance business.

**Commenting on the agreement, Phil Burke, CEO of Morvus said:** *“I am delighted with the licensing of MorEx to MDP and the strong financial commitment received from Stephens to progress this programme to patient trials. Together these should ensure the timely development of this important therapy which has the potential to drive a significant increase in shareholder value.*

**Commenting on the transaction, Andrew Stafford-Deitsch, of Stephens said:** *“We are delighted with the structure of the deal which allows us to concentrate our investment into MorEx, which is an exciting new product, while retaining Morvus’ development capabilities. We are also very pleased that Professor Caldwell has agreed to Chair the new venture and believe that with his experience of the drug development process, this team is well positioned to develop this important oncology asset.”*

-ENDS-

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**About Morvus**

Morvus is a privately-owned, drug-discovery company engaged in the discovery, development and commercialisation of novel drugs and technologies in the oncology field. The Company was established in 2004 and has its offices and laboratories near Llanarthne, South Wales. Morvus has a broad portfolio of technology which has been mainly generated in-house and which is focused on disease areas for which there is a clear, unmet medical need. Its programmes are based upon core expertise in prodrug-enzyme interactions and knowledge of the mechanism of apoptosis. Morvus' commercial strategy is to secure development and commercialisation partners for its products following proof-of-principle clinical studies. The Company generates revenue by licensing its intellectual property and/or know-how but retains a stake in the technology and produces shareholder value *via* receipt of signature fees, milestone payments and royalties.

[www.morvus.com](http://www.morvus.com)

### **About Stephens Investments Holdings**

Stephens Investments Holdings is a family owned investment company based in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA.