Warwick Effect Polymers Key PolyPEG® Patent Granted in Europe

Coventry, UK, 27th January 2010 - **Warwick Effect Polymers** (WEP), the biopolymer specialist company focusing on technologies to enhance biological drugs, announces that the key patent covering its PolyPEG®, next generation PEGylation technology has been granted in Europe.

The granted patent, EP1646661, protects WEP's comb-shaped PolyPEG® polymers, the methods to produce them and conjugates formed by covalently attaching PolyPEGs® to biological entities, such as proteins, peptides and oligonucleotide therapeutics. The patent is granted in 11 key European countries, providing wide coverage in this important market.

WEP continues to progress the development and commercialisation of PolyPEG® as a novel and differentiated half-life extension strategy for biological therapeutics. Two key advantages of PolyPEG® polymers are their very low viscosity, enabling high concentration formulations to be produced for ease of administration to patients, and the absence of tissue accumulation, which is often seen with conventional PEGs.

Commenting on the grant of the patent, WEP's Executive Chairman, Dr Richard Palmer said "The granting of this key patent in Europe reinforces the novelty of PolyPEG® and sets us on a firm footing for our continued commercialisation activities. We currently have agreements with numerous global pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies who are working with PolyPEG®, and WEP's other proprietary technology GlycoPol™, to enhance their specific biological products. We expect to enter into further agreements over the next few months".

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About WEP - www.wep-ltd.co.uk

Warwick Effect Polymers Limited was founded in 2001 as a spin-out from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Warwick. Its technology is based on the internationally recognised research into Living Radical Polymerisation of Professor David Haddleton. The Company's principal business activity uses its biopolymer technologies, PolyPEG® and GlycoPol™, to secure evaluation, licence and manufacturing deals with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies on specific proteins/drugs under development.

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Living Radical Polymerisation is a technology platform that allows for controlled synthesis of a wide range of polymers with uniquely targeted structure and function. Such polymers can therefore be tailored to have unique properties suitable for a wide range of applications ranging from biopolymers to medical devices, dispersants, personal care products and coatings – *designer polymers*.

PolyPEG® is a co-polymer with a unique comb-like architecture comprising a polymethacrylate backbone with short polyethylene glycol (PEG) 'teeth'. This structure allows a wide range of PEG structures and conformations with terminal functionality to be synthesised. This ensures differentiated properties from linear and branched PEGs when conjugated to proteins and other biologicals. Two key features of PolyPEG® are its very low viscosity allowing more concentrated formulations for easy administration to patients, as well as its ability to be hydrolysed into readily excretable units, thus preventing accumulation in the body. When conjugated to biologicals, PolyPEG® not only increases their half-life in the body but can also increase biological activity while avoiding the potential for accumulation in the tissues.

GlycoPol™ is a novel glycopolymer technology comprising a polymer backbone with pendant sugars covalently attached using click chemistry. Depending on their carbohydrate content, GlycoPol™ polymers can be structurally tuned for a particular application. Designed for site-specific conjugation to biologicals, GlycoPols™ can be used to mimic the polysaccharides on glycoproteins to influence their activity profile. GlycoPol™ also offers the potential to target biological therapeutics to carbohydrate receptors on cells. Indeed, human tissue microarray studies demonstrate specific and selective binding of GlycoPols™ to tissues depending on the sugar composition of the glycopolymer. This allows the potential for specific tissue targeting of biological and other therapeutic entities for optimal therapeutic effect.

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