For release: 20 March 2012

Xention Reports Positive Phase 1 Data for New Atrial Fibrillation Drug

XEN-D0103, a potent and selective Kv1.5 antagonist, is safe and well tolerated in healthy volunteers

CAMBRIDGE, UK – XENTION LTD, the Cambridge-based biopharmaceutical company specialising in the discovery and development of ion channel-modulating drugs, reported positive data today from a phase 1 trial of XEN-D0103 administered orally. The drug, a selective inhibitor of the cardiac potassium channel Kv1.5, was well tolerated and demonstrated good pharmacokinetic (PK) properties. The results support the continuing development of XEN-D0103 for the treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF), a commonly encountered and potentially serious cardiac arrhythmia in which the atria of the heart beat in a rapid and irregular manner, resulting in reduced cardiac output and increased risk of stroke.

The phase 1 clinical trial, which was conducted in the UK, studied single and multiple ascending oral doses of XEN-D0103 in healthy volunteer subjects in three parts. The study evaluated the safety and pharmacokinetics of various doses and also the effects of food. XEN-D0103 was well tolerated with a good PK profile and no significant food, gender or age related effects were observed. No significant adverse events were reported.

Importantly, a detailed ECG (electrocardiogram) analysis of data collected from the first cohort of 30 healthy volunteers indicated that XEN-D0103 had no effect on the QTcF interval. This absence of any detectable effect on QTcF, confirming the atrial selectivity of XEN-D0103, is an important safety attribute for a new atrial fibrillation drug, since many current antiarrhythmic drugs can lead to significant QT-interval prolongation and further arrhythmia problems.

Tim Brears, Chief Executive Officer of Xention commented, "We are very pleased to report these positive phase 1 data, specifically the observations that XEN-D0103 may have a much safer profile than current antiarrhythmic drugs, many of which have significant side effects. The potential market for XEN-D0103 is significant with one in

four adults over the age of 40 developing AF in their lifetimes and approximately three million patients suffering atrial-fibrillation-related strokes each year. We are now preparing for the initiation of phase 2 efficacy trial of XEN-D0103 in patients with atrial fibrillation".

XEN-D0103 is the lead product of Xention's portfolio of atrial fibrillation drugs. In addition to targeting Kv1.5, Xention is also conducting research on inhibition of the acetylcholine-activated potassium channel IKACh (Kir3.1/3.4) and highly potent and selective IKACh antagonists are currently under evaluation in preclinical models. The ion channels Kv1.5 and IKACh represent two of the most exciting targets for novel atrial fibrillation therapies, and Xention is at the forefront in developing effective drug modulators of these channels.

About Atrial Fibrillation:

Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is the most common sustained cardiac rhythm disturbance, occurring in between 1 and 2 per cent of the general population but increasing rapidly with age. It is estimated that over six million Europeans suffer from this arrhythmia and its prevalence is calculated to increase by at least 2.5 fold in the next 50 years as the population ages. AF confers a five-fold increased risk of stroke and one in five of all strokes are attributable to AF. The ischemic strokes seen in association with the arrhythmia are often fatal, and those that survive are often left crippled by their stroke and likely to suffer recurrent strokes. Around one per cent of the healthcare budget of Western European and North American countries is spent on the management of AF. Thus this disease presents a rapidly growing social, medical and public health problem in need of urgent solution.

For further information, please contact:

Tim Brears 01223 493 900
CEO
Xention Limited

Amber Bielecka / Claire Dickinson 020 7920 2352
M:Communications xention@mcomgroup.com

Notes to Editors

About Xention:

Xention Ltd is a leading developer of highly selective ion channel drugs for the treatment of atrial fibrillation. Utilising its world-leading expertise in the discovery of potent and selective drugs, Xention is focusing on the potassium channels Kv1.5 and IKACh which are widely recognised by cardiologists as the preferred targets for the prevention of atrial fibrillation. Xention's lead drug candidate XEN-D0103, a Kv1.5 antagonist, is at the end of phase 1 clinical development and has demonstrated a very high degree of selectivity over non-atrial ion channels. The company has also developed antagonists of IKACh which are highly potent and selective, and an IKACh development candidate will be selected shortly.

Xention has signed two major research collaborations with Ono Pharmaceutical Co Ltd and the Grünenthal Group, which take advantage of its strong experience in ion channel discovery and which are focused on the development of clinical candidates in other therapeutic areas.

Xention is based in Cambridge, UK and employs over 50 people. For further information, please visit www.xention.com.