



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Argenta Discovery Announces Two-Year Extension of Major Drug Discovery Collaboration with Genentech**

**Harlow, UK, 20 May 2009** - Argenta Discovery Ltd., the pharmaceutical R & D group, has announced that its integrated contract drug discovery agreement with Genentech, Inc., a wholly-owned member of the Roche Group, has been extended for a further two-year period. This is the second such extension to be agreed upon since the first collaboration project under the agreement was announced in December 2005. The agreement covers a number of drug discovery programmes that utilise Argenta's expertise in computer-aided drug design (CADD), medicinal chemistry, and *in vitro* biology and screening to discover new chemical entities acting against undisclosed drug targets defined by Genentech.

Commenting on the extended agreements, Dr. Christopher Ashton, Argenta's Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are delighted that Genentech has once again chosen to extend our collaboration for another two years. We believe this second extension is a reflection of Argenta's key strengths and continued commitment to deliver high quality, time- and cost-effective integrated drug discovery services and expertise. We very much look forward to continuing and growing our successful collaboration with Genentech."

Financial terms of the deal, which incorporates a number of funded FTEs at Argenta for the next two years, were not disclosed. The agreement provides further options to expand the relationship.

#### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Argenta Discovery**

Argenta Discovery was founded in August 2000. Argenta's contract research division provides integrated drug discovery services, comprising medicinal chemistry, computer-aided drug design (CADD), biochemistry, *in vitro* screening and DMPK, to a range of leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies world-wide. Argenta's industry experienced scientists deliver rapid hit finding capabilities and have the skills to optimise early-stage compounds quickly and effectively into potential drug candidates.

Argenta Discovery has leading expertise in chronic respiratory diseases including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Asthma and Cystic Fibrosis. Argenta is undertaking a number of internal proprietary programmes with the goal of taking these to the completion of Phase IIa proof-of-concept in humans.

Argenta is located in the United Kingdom and has facilities in Harlow, Welwyn Garden City, and Slough. For more information about Argenta Discovery, please visit [www.argentadiscovery.com](http://www.argentadiscovery.com)



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