



## **Epichem Awarded Extension to major US Drug Discovery Contract**

**7 June 2018 – Perth, Australia:** PharmAust Limited (ASX:PAA), a clinical-stage oncology company, is pleased to announce that its wholly owned subsidiary, Epichem Pty Ltd, has been awarded an extension to its contract with a leading Californian biotechnology company, Unity Biotechnology, Inc. (“Unity”).

The contract will see Epichem continue to provide synthetic and medicinal chemistry expertise to support Unity’s drug discovery projects aimed at extending human health span.

The contract extension, until early-2020, is expected to generate up to US\$1.65m in revenues for Epichem during this period.

Epichem’s CEO, Dr Martine Keenan said “We are delighted to continue working with Unity in such an exciting field of research. The Epichem team are looking forward to strengthening our relationship with the company to support this important work.”

PharmAust’s Chairman Dr Roger Aston said “It is exciting that Epichem have secured a meaningful extension to this work with such a leading contributor as Unity. This further demonstrates the significance of the expansion of the laboratory capacity at Epichem”.

### **Enquiries:**

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### **About Epichem:**

Epichem is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ASX listed company PharmAust Limited. Located in Technology Park, Western Australia, Epichem has been delivering products and services in synthetic and medicinal chemistry to the global drug discovery and pharmaceutical industries in 35 countries worldwide for over 14 years. Epichem has a newly constructed state-of-the-art laboratory and has world class equipment and expertise in synthetic and medicinal chemistry for the cost-effective synthesis of drug analogue libraries and intermediates. It also has a rapidly growing catalogue of pharmaceutical reference standards. More information at [www.epichem.com.au](http://www.epichem.com.au)

### **About PharmAust (PAA):**

PAA is a clinical-stage company developing targeted cancer therapeutics for both humans and animals. The company specialises in repurposing marketed drugs lowering the risks and costs of development. These efforts are supported by PAA’s subsidiary, Epichem, a highly successful contract synthetic drug manufacturer which generated Aus\$3.05m in revenues in the 2017 FY.

PAA’s lead drug candidate is monepantel (MPL), a novel, potent and safe inhibitor of the mTOR pathway - a key driver of cancer. MPL has been evaluated in Phase 1 clinical trials in humans and dogs. MPL treatment was well-tolerated and produced a significant reduction in key prognostic biomarkers. PAA is uniquely positioned to commercialise MPL for treatment of human and veterinary cancers as it advances the drug into Phase 2 clinical trials.