# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

**BENITEC BIOPHARMA (ASX: BLT; OTC: BTEBY)**

**25 May 2015**

**BENITEC PROVIDES UPDATE ON MANUFACTURING OF CLINICAL TRIAL MATERIAL**

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- **Omnia Biologics to supply TT-034 drug product for the current hepatitis C clinical trial**
- **Benitec working to establish scalable manufacturing process with third parties**

**Sydney, Australia:** Benitec Biopharma Limited today announced that it has entered into an agreement with Omnia Biologics of Rockville, Maryland, USA to manufacture clinical material for the current first-in-man clinical trial of TT-034, a potential 'one-shot' cure for hepatitis C.

Dr Claudia Kloth, Benitec's US-based Vice-President of Manufacturing, commented, "Omnia has a well established manufacturing process for Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV)-based products that is comparable to the one used to produce the material currently used for the TT-034 trial. This supply agreement ensures that we have sufficient clinical material to complete the current trial."

Benitec's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Peter French added, "Whilst the process used for manufacturing clinical material in the TT-034 Phase I/IIa clinical trial is adequate for our immediate requirements, the process is not scalable. Therefore, to supply the large markets Benitec is aiming for such as in hepatitis C and B, the Company is moving to establish its own large-scale manufacturing process in collaboration with third parties, and we will make further announcements about those developments as they occur."

No financial details of the Omnia agreement were disclosed.

**More detail on the TT-034 trial:** TT-034 is a ddRNAi-based therapeutic, designed to treat and potentially cure hepatitis C (HCV) with a single administration. TT-034 targets the hepatitis C viral RNA at three separate, highly conserved sites. As such it acts as a "triple therapy" even though it is a monotherapy, and minimises the ability of the virus to mutate and escape the therapy. Once it reaches the liver cells it enters the nucleus and produces three separate short hairpin RNAs continuously for the lifetime of the cell. Thus it has the potential to not only treat the existing HCV infection but to guard against reinfection for months to years without the need to re-treat. It has been extensively tested in pre-clinical *in vivo* studies and no adverse effects were seen at any therapeutic dose. However, as it is regulated as a gene therapy, the trial design is to primarily ensure that treatment with TT-034 is safe, hence the gradual dose escalation.

For further information regarding Benitec and its activities, please contact the persons below, or visit the Benitec website at www.benitec.com.

| ***Company*** | ***Investor relations*** |
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