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www.evotec.com**Ono Enters into a New Fragment-Based Drug Discovery Agreement with Evotec**

- Up to three-year integrated drug discovery support program -

Hamburg, Germany | Oxford, UK – Evotec AG (Frankfurt Stock Exchange: EVT) announced today that the Company and Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan) signed a new drug discovery agreement targeting a protease chosen by Ono.

The collaboration applies Evotec's proprietary fragment-based drug discovery platform, EVOLution™ to identify novel, small molecular weight compounds active against a protease target. The platform integrates, among other things, protein X-ray crystallography, computational chemistry, structural biology, biochemical, and NMR based fragment screening in combination with its high-quality fragment libraries. In the collaboration it is combined with Evotec's expertise in medicinal chemistry and ADMET to further characterize active compounds identified and optimize their potency and selectivity to generate molecules for subsequent progression into clinical trials.

Under the agreement, Ono will pay to Evotec initial payments (technology access fee) for access to Evotec's fragment-based drug discovery platform, EVOLution™, research funding as well as success-based milestones based on the research progress.

Dr Mark Ashton, Executive Vice President Business Development Services at Evotec, said: "We are extremely pleased that Evotec's capabilities in drug discovery and, in particular, our proprietary EVOLution™ platform for fragment-based drug discovery, have been so highly regarded by Ono and that they have chosen us as their partner for this collaboration. We are confident that Evotec will contribute to Ono's drug discovery program."

"We have the highest regards for the wide range of drug discovery technologies Evotec possesses and highly anticipate the collaboration will result in identifying a novel drug having high potentials" **said Daikichi Fukushima, Ph.D., Managing Director, Research Headquarters at Ono.**

About Evotec AG

Evotec is a leader in the discovery and development of novel small molecule drugs. Both through its own discovery programmes and through research collaborations, the Company is generating the highest quality research results to its partners in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

In proprietary projects, Evotec specialises in finding new treatments for diseases of the Central Nervous System. Evotec has three programmes in clinical develop-

ment: EVT 201, a partial positive allosteric modulator (pPAM) of the GABA_A receptor complex for the treatment of insomnia, EVT 101, a subtype selective NMDA receptor antagonist for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and/or pain, and EVT 302, a MAO-B inhibitor in development for smoking cessation.

On 19 September 2007, Evotec announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Renovis, a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of drugs for major medical needs in the areas of pain and inflammatory diseases. The acquisition is subject to Renovis' stockholder vote, US anti-trust clearance and other customary closing conditions.

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About Ono

In keeping with its philosophy of "Dedicated to Man's Fight against Disease and Pain", Ono has always striven to achieve its goal of serving as an R&D-oriented global speciality pharmaceuticals, aiming to developing innovative and globally recognized drugs. Ono's discovery efforts are dedicated to identifying "truly beneficial medicines for patients" focusing on the priority areas: prostaglandins, enzyme inhibitors, neuroscience, and intracellular signaling, where Ono can fully benefit from the technologies Ono has accumulated in the past, and employing genomic drug discovery very actively on top of these four areas. Meanwhile Strategic Alliance Headquarters was established in March 2007 in order to further strengthen discovery research capability and expand the development pipeline by promoting strategic alliances actively.

Forward looking statements

Information set forth in this report contains forward-looking statements, which involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about the anticipated benefits of Evotec's products and services, the payments that Evotec may receive under its collaboration agreement with Ono, the anticipated timing and results of Evotec's clinical and pre-clinical programs, and other statements that are not historical facts. Evotec cautions readers that any forward-looking information is not a guarantee of future performance and that actual results could differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking information as a result of risks and uncertainties. These include risks and uncertainties relating to: Evotec's ability to satisfy the research-based milestones under the agreement with Ono, Evotec's ability to complete the merger because conditions to the closing of the merger may not be satisfied; the failure to successfully integrate the businesses of Evotec and Renovis; unexpected costs or liabilities resulting from the merger; the risk that synergies from the merger may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected; disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers; competition and its effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues; the need to develop new products and adapt to significant technological change; implementation of strategies for improving internal growth; development, use and protection of intellectual property; general worldwide economic conditions and related uncertainties; future legislative, regulatory, or tax changes as well as other economic, business and/or competitive factors; and the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on international operations.

The risks included above are not exhaustive. The Registration Statement on Form F-4 filed by Evotec with the Securities and Exchange Commission contains additional factors that could impact the combined company's businesses and financial performance. The parties expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to re-



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lease publicly any updates or revisions to any such statements to reflect any change in the parties' expectations or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.