

13 February 2014

The Manager Companies  
ASX Limited  
20 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

(2 pages by email)

Dear Madam

### **KEY USA PATENT ALLOWED FOR BIOTRON'S BIT225**

- *Patent provides protection for BIT225, its use and composition in the USA*
  - *Important drug development milestone*
  - *Strengthens existing intellectual property portfolio*

**Sydney, Australia, 13 February, 2014** – Australian drug development company Biotron Limited (ASX: BIT) has received a Notice of Allowance by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for Biotron's patent application 11/922,281 entitled "Antiviral Compounds and Methods".

This patent protects the composition and use of, and methods of treatment with, the Company's lead antiviral compound BIT225.

The allowance of this key USA patent is an important milestone for the Company. The term of a USA patent is 20 years from date of filing, and may be further extended in specific circumstances. Biotron filed this patent in December 2007.

Managing Director Dr Michelle Miller said that the patent was a valuable addition to the Company's existing intellectual property portfolio and enabled broad protection for the current clinical and commercial opportunity presented by BIT225.

"This patent provides Biotron exclusivity in the key USA market over its proprietary compound BIT225," she said. "Our trials of this compound have consistently demonstrated BIT225's first in class potential to be used as an adjunctive treatment for patients with Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and/or HIV."

To date, Biotron has had its patent for BIT225 granted or accepted in eight other jurisdictions, including Europe and China.

This patent extends Biotron's antiviral patent portfolio, which encompasses five patent families. The portfolio covers Biotron's extensive compound library, as well as screening assays against specific viral target proteins known as viroporins. BIT225 targets the Vpu protein of HIV and the p7 protein of HCV; both targets fall into the viroporin class of proteins.

BIT225 has consistently demonstrated good clinical efficacy in all trials to date. One hundred percent of HCV genotype 1 patients receiving BIT225 (400 mg) for 28 days in combination with interferon and ribavirin (IFN/RBV) had undetectable levels of virus in the blood at the 48 week follow up. This was compared to 75% of patients who received IFN/RBV alone. Interim data from a Phase 2, four week trial in hard-to-treat HIV/HCV co-infected patients has shown all HCV genotype 3 patients to have undetectable virus at the three month time point.

Additionally, results from a Phase 2a trial in HIV-infected patients have demonstrated that BIT225 is able to target and reduce HIV from reservoir cells, which remain as pools of hidden HIV in patients receiving standard anti-retroviral drugs.

BIT225 is currently being evaluated in a three month dosing, Phase 2 trial in HCV genotype 3 patients. Recruitment is expected to be finalised mid-year, with preliminary data released in the second half of 2014.

**Enquiries**

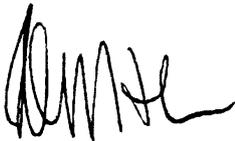
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**About Biotron and BIT225**

Biotron Limited is engaged in the research, development, and commercialisation of drugs targeting significant viral diseases with unmet medical need, with a major focus on HIV and HCV. The Company has BIT225 in clinical development for both HIV and HCV, and also has earlier stage preclinical and research programs for other viral infections including Dengue.

Yours sincerely



Peter J. Nightingale  
Company Secretary

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