



## PRESS RELEASE

### PAION ANNOUNCES LAST PATIENT RANDOMIZED IN PHASE III ISCHEMIC STROKE STUDY (DIAS-2) WITH DESMOTEPLASE

Aachen (Germany) 8 December 2006 – The biopharmaceutical company PAION AG (FSE: PA8) announced today that the enrolment of patients in its stroke study DIAS-2 has been completed.

The primary objective of this randomized, placebo-controlled, multi-center Phase III study was to investigate improvement of clinical outcome in patients with acute ischemic stroke. In the time window of 3 to 9 hours after stroke onset patients received either placebo or 90mcg/kg, or 125 mcg/kg of Desmoteplase with clinical outcome measured at 90 days after treatment. 186 patients in Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore were treated in the study which is jointly conducted by PAION and Forest Laboratories, Inc. (New York, USA).

*“The completion of patient enrolment in the first Phase III study with our lead drug candidate is a major step forward in the development programme of this novel plasminogen activator”* comments PAION’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mariola Soehngen. *“Despite the short recruitment break end of October, we were able to randomize the last patient according to schedule. We see this as a sign of confidence in the Desmoteplase development program from our international group of investigators who were very supportive during the whole study.”*

PAION and Forest expect that headline results of the study will be available by the middle of 2007.

#### **About Desmoteplase**

Desmoteplase, the most fibrin-specific plasminogen activator known today, is a genetically engineered version of a clot-dissolving protein found in the saliva of the vampire bat *Desmodus rotundus*. It has received fast-track designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the indication of acute ischemic stroke.

#### **About Stroke**

According to a recent publication by the American Stroke Association (ASA), stroke now is the second leading cause of death worldwide and is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability. In the US alone, 700,000 people suffer a stroke attack each year, and around 20% of them die within four weeks. For the US, the ASA expects the financial burden of stroke due to in-hospital costs, long-term care programs and productivity losses to be 58 billion dollars in 2006 alone.

#### **About PAION**

PAION is a biopharmaceutical company based in Aachen, Germany (listed at Frankfurt Stock Exchange, Prime Standard, ISIN DE000A0B65S3). It aims to

become a leader in developing and marketing innovative drugs for the treatment of stroke and other thrombotic diseases for which there is a substantial unmet medical need. PAION's activities are focused on the development of the three drugs Desmoteplase, Eneccadin and Solulin. PAION's most advanced drug candidate, Desmoteplase, is partnered with Forest Laboratories, Inc. (USA and Canada) and H. Lundbeck A/S (Europe, Japan, Rest of World). Currently PAION employs more than 75 people.

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