



ABLYNX ANNOUNCES SECOND EXTENSION OF ITS NANOBODY® DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

GHENT, Belgium, 5 February 2009 – Ablynx [*Euronext Brussels: ABLX*], a pioneer in the discovery and development of Nanobodies®, a novel class of antibody-derived therapeutic proteins, announced today that its drug discovery and development alliance with Novartis has been extended for another year.

Under the terms of the agreement, entered into in December 2005, the companies are collaborating to discover and develop novel Nanobody®-based therapeutics against disease targets that are difficult to address with conventional antibodies or their fragments. Novartis has exclusive rights to develop and commercialise the Nanobody® products resulting from the collaboration. This agreement was previously extended in December 2007 and, based on the positive progress made, the companies have mutually agreed to extend their alliance for another year.

As part of the collaboration Ablynx receives license fees and funding for research and development. In addition, Ablynx is eligible for milestone payments and royalties upon commercialisation.

Edwin Moses, CEO and Chairman of Ablynx, commented:

“We are very pleased with our collaboration with Novartis, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies with a significant track record in innovative drug development, and we look forward to continuing to work together with the goal to advance Nanobody®-based programmes into the clinic.”

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About Ablynx [*Euronext Brussels: ABLX*] - <http://www.ablynx.com>

Founded in 2001 in Ghent, Belgium, Ablynx is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of Nanobodies®, a novel class of therapeutic proteins based on single-domain antibody fragments, for a range of serious and life-threatening human diseases. The Company currently has over 200 employees. Ablynx completed a successful IPO on Euronext Brussels [*ABLX*] on 7 November 2007.

Ablynx is developing a portfolio of Nanobody®-based therapeutic programmes in a number of major disease areas, including inflammation, thrombosis, oncology and Alzheimer’s disease. Nanobodies® have been generated against more than 100 different disease targets. Importantly the Nanobodies® which naturally exist in llamas have a very high homology with humans. Efficacy data has been obtained in over 25 *in vivo* models for Nanobodies® against a range of different targets.

Ablynx has an extensive patent position in the field of Nanobodies® for healthcare applications. It has exclusive and worldwide rights to more than 50 families of granted patents and pending patent applications, including the Hamers patents covering the basic structure, composition, preparation and uses of Nanobodies®.

Ablynx has ongoing research collaborations and significant partnerships with several major pharmaceutical companies, including Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck Serono, Novartis and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Ablynx is

building a diverse and broad portfolio of therapeutic Nanobodies[®] through these collaborations as well as through its own internal discovery programmes. The Company's lead programme, ALX-0081, an intravenously administered novel anti-thrombotic has reached its primary endpoint in a multi-dose Phase Ib study in patients undergoing PCI and ALX-0681, also an anti-thrombotic but with a subcutaneous route of administration has started Phase I in healthy volunteers. Ablynx has progressed ALX-0141, an anti-RANKL Nanobody[®] for bone disorders into preclinical development. In addition, Ablynx's partner Wyeth Pharmaceuticals has initiated a Phase I study in December 2008 for an anti-TNF alpha Nanobody[®].

Nanobody[®] is a registered trademark of Ablynx NV.

For more information, please contact:

**For international media enquiries: Ablynx:
College Hill Life Sciences**

Sue Charles, Justine Lamond,
Dr John McIntyre
t: +44 (0)20 7866 7857
e: ablynx@collegehill.com

Dr Edwin Moses
Chairman and CEO
t: +32 (0)9 262 00 07
m: +44 (0)7771 954 193 /
+32 (0)473 39 50 68
e: edwin.moses@ablynx.com

Eva-Lotta Allan
Chief Business Officer
t: +32 (0)9 262 00 75
m: +32 (0)475 78 36 21 /
+44 (0)7990 570 900
e: eva-lotta.allan@ablynx.com

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