

7<sup>th</sup> May 2008

## Mercia Technology Seed Fund Seals Investment In nanoTherics

The Mercia Technology Seed Fund (MTSF), a leading provider of venture capital to early stage technology businesses in the West Midlands, has just completed an initial investment in nanoTherics Ltd. This scientific medical devices company was founded following cutting edge biomedical research conducted at Keele University and the University of Florida. It will use the funds to complete its product offering which already benefits from early sales traction.

nanoTherics's primary business is the supply of scientific devices and associated products to research laboratories, both in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries and academia. Early sales demonstrate a strong market appetite for the solution presented by the patented technology which uses nanoparticles and magnetic fields to facilitate delivery of important molecules, such as DNA, into living cells. The medium to long-term opportunity for this approach relates to non-viral gene therapy, an area now demanding safe technology to treat genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis.

As part of the investment package, Dr Linda Cammish has been appointed as advisor to the management team playing to her key strengths in product development and commercialisation within the device industry. Linda's previous experience includes holding senior commercial positions at Millipore, Perseptive Biosystems, Applied Biosystems and Abcam plc. In association with this appointment, Dr Mark Payton (Fund Principal, MTSF) will join the nanoTherics Board.

Dr Mark Payton, commented:

"nanoTherics is a compelling example of a new wave of commercial opportunities emerging from the university sector where by working closely with our partner universities, such as Keele University, we are able to accelerate the commercial development of key disruptive technologies."

Dr Neil Farrow, COO of nanoTherics, added:

“We are delighted to be working alongside MTSF, a fund highly experienced in growing early stage technology companies such as nanoTherics. The experience they bring will be invaluable in enabling us to progress our novel gene transfection systems to full commercialisation.”

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## Notes To Editors

### About Mercia Technology Seed Fund (MTSF)

MTSF is a £13m technology fund investing in start up companies and other early stage technology-based ventures located in the West Midlands. It is managed by Birmingham-based WM Enterprise\*, a leading provider of specialist venture capital finance with approximately £100m of funds under management throughout England. One of the key investors in the MTSF is Advantage West Midlands, the regional development agency for the West Midlands.

In addition to the MTSF, WM Enterprise manages/advises a number of funds across the country including:

- South East Growth Fund
- North West Equity Fund
- Baring English Growth Fund

MTSF typically invests in companies based in the West Midlands with high growth prospects that have a robust and developed proprietary product or technology platform. For more information go to [www.merciafund.co.uk](http://www.merciafund.co.uk).

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### About nanoTherics

nanoTherics Ltd was formed in August 2007 to exploit a novel gene transfection technology arising from biomedical research at Keele University and the University of Florida. The patented technology uses nanoparticles and magnetic fields to facilitate delivery of foreign DNA into living cells. nanoTherics gene transfection studies have shown significant performance enhancement over the best non-viral techniques currently on the market, demonstrating high levels of transfection whilst maintaining viability of transfected cells. These key attributes afford a significant competitive advantage over currently available systems.

nanoTherics's mission is to position its novel gene transfection technology as the new “gold standard” for transfection, underpinning the research and development of current and future gene therapy programmes. For more information go to [www.nanotherics.com](http://www.nanotherics.com)

\*WM Enterprise is a trading name of West Midlands Enterprise Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.



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