November 15, 2007

ONO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.

President and Representative Director: Toshiharu Korekane
Code No: 4528 at the first section of the Tokyo and Osaka Stock Exchange
INQUIRIES: Kinya Morimoto, Executive Director, Public Relations (Phone: 06 6263 5670)

NISSIN FOOD PRODUCTS CO., LTD.

President and Representative Director: Koki Ando
Code No: 2897 at the first section of the Tokyo and Osaka Stock Exchange
INQUIRIES: Hideki Hattori, General Manager of Corporate Communications Division (Phone: 03 3205 5252)

Ono Enters into Service Agreement with Nissin for Use of New Carcinogenicity Evaluation System, Developed by Nissin, for Pharmaceutical Compounds

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka Japan, President: Toshiharu Korekane) and Nissin Food Products Co., Ltd. (Osaka Japan, President: Koki Ando) announced today that both companies entered into service agreement for use of the new system developed by Nissin for evaluation of carcinogenicity of pharmaceutical compounds.

It is important to identify new compounds not only with good efficacy but also superior safety in pharmaceutical research and development. Particularly carcinogenicity evaluation is one of the most important safety testing that should be evaluated and secured as early as possible in discovery research.

NESMAGET (Nissin's Evaluation System for Mammalian GenoToxicity), which was newly developed by Nissin, is a novel technology to allow us to assess carcinogenicity potential in short period of time with minute amount of a large number of compounds, which is totally different from conventional methodology. It is anticipated that this new technology improves accuracy of carcinogenicity evaluation and that carcinogenicity risk of candidate compounds for further development can be predicted at early stage of discovery research. Ono considers that active use of this NESMAGET will enable us to conduct discovery research taking more careful note of safety than ever.

<REFERENCE>

NESMAGET method (Simplified mutagenicity assays using human cells)

It is known that carcinogenic substances mostly have mutagenic property leading to gene (DNAs) alteration. Commonly used mutagenicity assays using bacteria or mammalian cells have various disadvantages such as species differences, tangled handling, and taking a long period of time (several days to weeks). Nissin has originally developed NESMAGET as an alternative method to solve these problems. One of the distinctive features of this new technology is to detect human cells expressing p53R2 that is a DNA-repair gene, and the system allows analyzing mutagenicity easily with minute amount of a substance.