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**ONO PHARMACEUTICAL Co., LTD.**

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Code No: 4528 at the 1<sup>st</sup> section of the Tokyo / Osaka Stock Exchange

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**Ono Signs New Drug Discovery Agreement with Evotec AG  
Targeting an Ion Channel**

Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan) announced today that the company and Evotec AG (Hamburg, Germany) signed a new drug discovery agreement targeting an ion channel\*.

Under the agreement, Ono will pay to Evotec research funding during the research period of eighteen months as well as success-based milestones based on the research progress. Meanwhile Ono will have worldwide rights to develop and sell a pharmaceutical product containing the compound discovered through the collaboration.

In March 2008, Ono and Evotec entered into a fragment-based drug discovery collaboration targeting a protease and the collaboration has so far identified novel chemical structures of protease inhibitors with good levels of inhibitory activity. Based on the good progress of the protease collaboration, Ono decided to start a new collaboration with Evotec to discover novel, low molecular compounds targeting an ion channel selected by Ono using Evotec's proprietary fluorescence screening\*\* and ion channel drug discovery platform.

About Evotec AG

Evotec AG is a biopharmaceutical company which possesses a wide range of drug discovery skills and technologies. Evotec is engaged in discovery research to create novel drug candidates of therapeutic potential using its powerful drug discovery platform which integrates, among other things, its proprietary high-sensitive screening, protein X-ray crystallography technologies and its high-quality fragment libraries.

Evotec has extensive experience of drug discovery collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies which put a high value on Evotec's cutting-edge technologies.

For more information on Evotec, please go to [www.evotec.com](http://www.evotec.com).

\*: Ion channels

Ion channels are membrane-bound proteins that control the passage of ions across the cell membrane and regulate the function of all cells. It is widely recognized that ion channels are implicated in many diseases including cardiovascular, neurological, urological, metabolic and inflammatory diseases and they represent an untapped opportunity in drug discovery and development.

\*\*: Fluorescence screening

Fluorescence screening is a method for assessing activity of compounds on a target through fluorescence intensity variation. It is an advantage that fluorescence screening has higher throughput than that of electrophysiological assays generally used in drug discovery research on ion channels, which determine electrical change or current magnitude. Evotec has developed proprietary high-sensitive fluorescence screening method on specific ion channels.