



Issue date: 2 February 2011

NVM Private Equity helps Altacor take its products global

NVM Private Equity (NVM) has led a £1.9 million investment in Altacor, the Ophthalmic Speciality Pharmaceutical company, alongside Enterprise Ventures and Beringea. The investment will support the company's strategy to develop new and existing products for the growing global ophthalmology market.

The ophthalmology market's growth has been driven by a number of factors, such as an ageing population, improved eye screening and monitoring, an increase in laser eye surgery and the introduction of new treatments. The UK alone has seen a growth of 9% annually over the past ten years.

Altacor was founded in 2005 by the current CEO, Dr Fran Crawford and Director, David Alcraft. Fran has 25 years experience in managing company growth and product development programmes and before founding Altacor she held high positions in Spirogen, Syngenix, Elan Transdermal Technologies and Ethical Holdings. David held senior roles within Astra, Glaxo Group, Gemini Research, Hill and Knowlton, PA Consulting Group and has extensive experience of pharmaceutical marketing. Dr Andy Richards is chairman of Altacor. He was a founder director of Chiroscience and has since been involved in a number of successful healthcare projects.

Clive Austin led the deal for NVM and comments *"We are delighted to lead this round of investment in Altacor. There is a great team in place and their strategy allows the business to commercialise high upside products whilst managing the risk – a winning combination for any private equity investor".*

Altacor's focus is on the development and marketing of products directed to the needs of both ophthalmologists and patients. From its headquarters in Cambridge, UK, Altacor is using its drug development skills and in-depth market knowledge to build a portfolio of high quality, differentiated medicines that set new standards in the sector.

----- ENDS -----

Notes to editors:

NVM Private Equity Limited (NVM) is independently owned with over 25 years' experience of investing in unquoted UK businesses. NVM is a generalist investor, managing £200 million of funds, and is differentiated by having executives living and working in regional business communities throughout the UK. NVM seek investment opportunities in UK businesses which have the right mix of growth potential and market vision. They may be looking to grow organically, acquire another business or secure a management buy-out. Typically, NVM look to invest between £2 million and £10 million. www.nvm.co.uk

For further information please contact:**NVM**

- Clive Austin (North West) – 0845 272 7023 – clive.austin@nvm.co.uk
- Liberty Bollen (PR & Marketing) - 0118 951 7017 liberty.bollen@nvm.co.uk