

## Press Release

Zug, 22 February 2012

### **Enanta signs significant collaboration agreement with Novartis for Hepatitis C programme**

**Enanta Pharmaceuticals, a privately held company in the portfolio of HBM BioVentures, announced yesterday that it has entered into an exclusive collaboration and license agreement with Novartis (SIX: NOVN; NYSE: NVS) for the worldwide development, manufacture and commercialization of its hepatitis C virus (HCV) inhibitor programme EDP-239. Under the terms of the agreement, Enanta will receive an upfront payment of USD 34 million and is eligible to receive up to USD 406 million if certain clinical, regulatory and commercial milestones are met, plus tiered double-digit royalties on potential worldwide sales.**

Hepatitis C is a rapidly growing liver disease affecting over 170 million people worldwide. The virus is spread through direct contact with the blood of an infected person and increases a person's risk of developing chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, liver cancer and death.

HBM BioVentures has invested USD 7.7 million in Enanta and holds about 6% of the company. In 2006 Enanta already entered into a strategic partnership with Abbott Laboratories for another HCV development programme currently in phase II of clinical testing.

The collaboration agreement with Novartis has no immediate impact on the valuation of the investment in Enanta due to the valuation principles adopted by HBM BioVentures.

For further information, please contact Dr. Andreas Wicki, CEO HBM BioVentures Ltd, tel.: +41 41 768 11 08, [andreas.wicki@hbmbioventures.com](mailto:andreas.wicki@hbmbioventures.com).

#### **About Enanta Pharmaceuticals**

Enanta Pharmaceuticals is a research and development company focussed to create best in class small molecule drugs in the infectious disease field. Enanta is developing novel protease, NS5A, nucleoside(tide) polymerase, and cyclophilin-based inhibitors targeted against the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Additionally, the Company has created a new class of antibiotics, called Bicyclolides, which overcomes bacterial resistance. Enanta is a privately held company headquartered in Watertown, Mass. Further information on Enanta is available on the company's web site at [www.enanta.com](http://www.enanta.com).

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**HBM BioVentures**

## Profile of HBM BioVentures Ltd

HBM BioVentures invests in the healthcare sector. The Company holds and manages an international portfolio of some twenty five promising companies in the biotechnology/human medicine, medical technology and diagnostics sectors. Many of these companies have their lead products already available on the market, or at an advanced stage of development. The focus of investment is on follow-on financing for existing portfolio companies. These portfolio companies are closely tracked and actively guided on their strategic directions. This is what makes HBM BioVentures an interesting alternative to investing in big pharma and biotech companies. HBM BioVentures has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker: HBMN).

## Disclaimer

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**HBM BioVentures Ltd**

Bundesplatz 1 CH-6300 Zug | Tel: +41 41 768 11 08 | Fax: +41 41 768 11 09 | [info@hbmbioventures.com](mailto:info@hbmbioventures.com)  
[www.hbmbioventures.com](http://www.hbmbioventures.com)