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## Biofusion launches Phase Focus

### New spin-out company to develop new technology for the global microscopy market

Biofusion plc ("Biofusion"), the university intellectual property (IP) commercialisation company, today announces the launch of a new portfolio company, Phase Focus Ltd ("Phase Focus"), and an initial investment of £200,000 to provide for further development and validation of its proprietary technology.

Phase Focus is developing an alternative approach to microscopy and imaging that does not rely on sophisticated lenses and has applications in optical, x-ray and electron microscopy, amongst others. Professor John Rodenburg, a founder of Phase Focus, has patent applications pending for a process that can generate high definition images of an object without the need for the high quality lenses that account for a significant element of the cost of high-performance microscopes.

Dr Ian Pykett, who has 19 years experience in management of technology companies, has been appointed as CEO to Phase Focus.

David Baynes, CEO of Biofusion said:

*"Phase Focus is our fourth new company and takes the number of spin-out companies in our portfolio to twelve. We believe Professor Rodenburg's breakthrough has the potential to create a new generation of 'lensless' microscopes, which will produce better images at a lower cost, in the electron and optical microscopy market, a market which is forecast to grow to \$1.6 billion by 2009."*

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### About Biofusion

Biofusion was established in 2002 to commercialise university-generated IP. The Company has a ten-year exclusive arrangement with the University of Sheffield for the commercialisation of IP owned by the University in the area of medical life sciences. Biofusion has shareholdings in a portfolio of twelve spin-out companies including Asterion, Axordia, Celltran, Lifestyle Choices and Genophrenix. The University of Sheffield is a world class life sciences research centre spending an estimated £0.5bn of research funding over the next ten years. The University can count five Nobel Prize winners among its alumni and researchers, and data from the latest UK Government's Research Assessment Exercise 2001 showed it ranked fifth in the UK for the quality of its life sciences research.

In March 2006 Biofusion entered into a strategic partnership with NPI Ventures Ltd. NPI Ventures Ltd is the technology investment business wholly owned by Nikko Principal Investments Limited, the European principal finance arm of Nikko Cordial Corporation, which is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Under the agreement NPI Ventures Ltd established a £10 million side fund for the dedicated purpose of investing in Biofusion portfolio companies, invested £2 million in Biofusion by taking a 7.37% equity stake in Biofusion and has warrants with a total potential subscription value of £6.25 million, exercisable at exercise prices between 150p to 220p.

[www.biofusion.co.uk](http://www.biofusion.co.uk)