



Summit Corporation plc
(“Summit” or “the Company”)

\$10 MILLION COLLABORATION IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Evolva and Summit sign three-year co-investment collaboration for SMT14400

Oxford, UK, 24 July 2007 – Summit plc (AIM: SUMM), a leading UK biotechnology company formerly known as VASTox plc (AIM: VOX), announces that it has signed a three-year collaborative agreement with Evolva Biotech SA (“Evolva”) to develop new drugs for infectious diseases.

The collaboration covers Summit’s immunomodulator drug candidate SMT14400 (formerly VOX 14400) and backup compounds from the Company’s proprietary imino sugar library. Evolva and Summit will work together to develop clinical-stage compounds that show efficacy against viruses and bacteria relating specifically to bio-defence targets such as Anthrax, Ebola and other infectious diseases such as HIV and Influenza. In Europe and the US there is currently substantial government support running into excess of \$100s million for the research and development of medicines that target these diseases.

Evolva is a leading Swiss-based biotechnology company focussed on developing small molecules for infectious diseases, cancer and diabetes. With their unique and world-leading capabilities in this area, Evolva has attracted over \$55 million in funding from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (“DTRA”), a US-government body tasked with developing technologies to deal with terrorism and unconventional weaponry.

Under the terms of the agreement the parties will make an initial co-investment of \$1 million. In addition to this, Summit and Evolva will make a further co-investment in excess of \$10 million over the next three years with both parties working together on a 50:50 basis to develop this new opportunity in infectious diseases for SMT14400. Summit will continue the development of SMT14400 in the areas of oncology and allergy.

Steven Lee, PhD, CEO of Summit said: “Evolva have a first class operation in the therapeutic area of infectious diseases, and I am very pleased to be working together in a programme collaboration with SMT14400. We retain the rights for SMT14400 in oncology and allergy, and will look forward to completing additional programme deals with other leading pharmaceutical and biotech partners”

Neil Goldsmith, Managing Director and CEO of Evolva added: “We are delighted to have signed this three-year collaboration with Summit in the area of infectious diseases. Summit’s world class expertise in a very promising chemical space coupled with Evolva’s strength in drug development will allow both companies to fast-track SMT14400 to clinical-stage. This co-investment into SMT14400 represents an opportunity for both companies to capitalise on each other’s strength and widen the exploration of novel small molecules to fight infectious diseases. We are looking forward to this partnership with Summit, a leading UK-listed biotechnology company.”

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About Evolva Biotech SA

Evolva Biotech SA is a drug discovery and development company headquartered in Basel (Switzerland) with subsidiary in the USA, Denmark and India involved in anti-infectives, cancer and metabolic diseases.

Evolva Biotech SA evolves small molecule drugs using massively combinatorial gene libraries that drive chemistry rich pathways. Its Genetic Chemistry technology platform replicates, on an industrial basis, the ability of nature to evolve molecules with exquisite “design”, but with the evolution directly aimed at making functional drugs – HIV blockers, anti-obesity compounds etc. Genetic Chemistry can create, optimize and manufacture molecules that are outside the scope of the traditional synthetic approaches of the industry. For more information see www.evolva.com.

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About Summit plc

Summit plc is a leading UK biotechnology company that discovers and develops proprietary new drugs. The Company’s internal drug development programmes are underpinned by its advanced carbohydrate chemistry and drug screening (chemical genomics) technology platforms, which it also provides on a collaborative or fee-for-service basis to the pharmaceutical industry.

Summit plc has a broad range of drug discovery programmes in the clinical, pre-clinical and discovery stages of development, which target serious diseases with a high unmet medical need. These therapeutic areas include neuro-disorders (neurodegenerative and neuromuscular), anti-infectives, ophthalmic diseases, oncology and regenerative medicines.

Summit plc’s in-house drug development capabilities combine world-class expertise in both carbohydrate chemistry with high-volume, high-content screening using its proprietary zebrafish and fruitfly technologies (chemical genomics). These whole organism screens have the potential to dramatically decrease the time and cost of drug discovery and development by delivering data that are highly predictive of the efficacy and toxicity of potential drug compounds in humans.

The company listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange in October 2004 – symbol: SUMM

Further information about the company is available at www.summitplc.com



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Forward-looking statements are based on the Company's current expectations and assumptions regarding our business, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, by their nature, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. The Company's actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. The Company cautions you therefore that you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements as statements of historical fact or as guarantees or assurances of future performance. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements and regional, national, global political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory conditions.