

PRESS RELEASE

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BioPartner.co.uk gains UK Trade & Investment accreditation

Supporting Biotech SMEs to exhibit and trade overseas

Oxford, UK , August 8, 2008: Oxford-based service company BioPartner.co.uk are delighted to announce they have been awarded accredited status by UK Trade & Investment, the joint BERR and Foreign & Commonwealth organisation that helps UK businesses export and encourages inward investment.

This accreditation further extends BioPartner's capacity to assist UK firms to internationalise, and follows several years of successfully running partnering events and projects for UKTI's LifeSciences team. Each year BioPartner will put forward a proposal to support selected overseas events, and if successful, will recruit companies and organise the distribution of Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) grant for a set of agreed events. This bidding process begins in the autumn and UK SMEs are encouraged to put forward their preferred export markets to BioPartner, for consideration.

Working with International Trade Advisors across the UK, BioPartner will also signpost SMEs to free and impartial advice on winning business overseas, and access a global network of local experts, based at British Embassies, Consulates and High Commissions, and local life science organisations, to ensure UK-based companies can tap into an unrivalled depth of business knowledge and expertise. Services that can be accessed include: tailored market research, organised overseas market visits, subsidised assistance to attend exhibitions, partner-matching, and skills development through focused training.

Harriet Fear, Team Leader, LifeSciences Sector, UKTI said "I am delighted that BioPartner has been recognised formally by HM Government and has been awarded ATO status. It is a reflection of all their hard work with and for my team and wider UK Trade & Investment in recent years. I am certain they will continue to support us and ultimately UK companies in an exceptionally strong and professional way".

Mitzi Swanson, International Trade Advisor for Healthcare and Bioscience at UK Trade & Investment Team South East, said: "I look forward to working with BioPartner to enhance our UKTI regional support to those wishing to export and increase their trade overseas. I would urge companies to submit expressions of interest to BioPartner to assist their decision-making about which events to support in the forthcoming year."

This new venture coincides with an announcement today from the UKTI TAP Director, that future applications will benefit from additional funds and simpler eligibility criteria for experienced exporters, and streamlined application procedures for all.

For further information about TAP grants or BioPartner services, please visit the website at www.biopartner.co.uk/TAP.php or email info@biopartner.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

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1. ABOUT BIOPARTNER

BioPartner.co.uk is a service company based at the Oxford Science Park, that undertakes not-for-profit and contractual activity on behalf of UK Trade & investment and others; with the aim of internationalising UK life science companies. We co-ordinate BiotechNet, a group of life science consultants supporting start-up companies and inward-investors. With our partners, White October Ltd., we provide 3-step partnering software to all industry sectors under the Meeting Mojo™ brand name. For more information visit the website at www.biopartner.co.uk or email info@biopartner.co.uk

2. ABOUT UK TRADE & INVESTMENT LIFESCIENCES TEAM

UK Trade & Investment is the UK Government's international business development organisation, supporting businesses seeking to establish in the UK and helping UK companies grow internationally. The services offered by UK Trade & Investment bring together a network of business sector specialists and support teams in British embassies and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts all around the world, as well as key experts in government departments across the UK. UK Trade & Investment works with a wide range of partner organisations in the UK, including Regional Development Agencies and the Devolved Administrations, Business Links, Chambers of Commerce and trade associations. For more information, visit the web site at: www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

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