



**Newron and Zambon
enter into strategic collaboration and licence option
for Safinamide in the EU and US**

-- Zambon to make equity investment in Newron --

Milan, Italy, April 5, 2012 – Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A. (“Newron”), a research and development company focused on novel CNS and pain therapies, announced today that it has signed a strategic collaboration and licence option with Zambon Company S.p.A., the industrial holding of Zambon (“Zambon”), for Newron’s lead compound safinamide. The compound is currently in phase III development as an add-on therapy to dopamine agonists and levodopa in patients with Parkinson’s disease. Under the agreement, Zambon will make an initial investment of €20m into Newron as defined below, also covering the completion of safinamide’s clinical development and the preparation of the application for marketing approval in Europe and the US.

Under the terms of the agreement, Zambon will make an immediate equity investment in Newron of 726,435 newly issued shares at market price for a fully diluted 9.1% shareholding. Zambon has also committed to increase its stake in Newron in a future share capital increase.

In addition, Zambon will pay Newron an undisclosed sum for the exclusive option to a license for safinamide covering its research, development, manufacturing and marketing in all territories of the world with the exclusion of those covered by the recently announced license agreement with Meiji Seika Pharma (Japan and key Asian territories). The option expires by the end of April 2012. Upon exercise of the option, Zambon shall provide Newron with an undisclosed down payment and it will meet the costs for Newron to complete the development of safinamide, prepare the applications and file for marketing approval in Europe and the US. Furthermore, upon the exercise of the option, Zambon will qualify for one seat in the board of directors of Newron.

Newron will receive significant success based regulatory milestone payments as well as double digit royalty payments on future sales.

The global rights to safinamide will be returned to Newron by Merck Serono, the division for biopharmaceuticals of German company Merck KGaA on April 17, 2012.

Luca Benatti, Newron’s CEO, stated, “We are delighted that Zambon shares our confidence and excitement in the value of safinamide for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease. Newron will conduct the outstanding development activities including regulatory preparation and submission. We are very pleased that Zambon is joining as a



long term strategic investor and we are looking forward to results of the ongoing MOTION and SETTLE trials.”

Roberto Consonni, Zambon Pharma’s CEO, said: “Zambon confirms its commitment to improve the Quality of Life of patients and in safinamide we recognized a significant opportunity in the add-on therapy to dopamine agonists and levodopa in patients with Parkinson’s disease. We trust in Newron’s extensive CNS expertise to take this compound forward and, as Zambon, we are prepared to enter and develop this important therapeutic area of chronic disease in our pharma strategy.”

About safinamide

Safinamide is an alpha-aminoamide that is currently being developed as an add-on therapy to dopamine agonists or levodopa in patients with early or late-stage Parkinson’s disease. It is believed to have both dopaminergic and non-dopaminergic activities, including selective and reversible inhibition of monoamine oxidase B (MAO-B), activity-dependent sodium channel antagonism and inhibition of glutamate release in vitro. Studies are ongoing to better understand safinamide’s actions in patients with Parkinson’s disease.

About Newron Pharmaceuticals

Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A. (www.newron.com) is a biopharmaceutical company focused on novel therapies for diseases of the Central Nervous System and pain. Phase III trials of safinamide are currently ongoing for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease (PD). Newron is currently evaluating the further clinical development of ralfinamide for pain and psychiatric diseases. Newron’s additional projects are at various stages of preclinical and clinical development, including HF0220 for neuroprotection, NW-3509 for the treatment of schizophrenia, as well as pruvanserin and sarizotan for treatment of CNS diseases. Newron is headquartered in Bresso, near Milan, Italy. The company is listed at SIX Swiss Exchange, trading symbol NWRN.

About Zambon Pharma

Zambon is an Italian pharmaceutical and fine-chemical multinational company, earning a strong reputation over the years for high-quality products and services. Zambon was established in 1906 in Vicenza, where are based Italian fine-chemical and pharma plants. The other manufacturing units are in Switzerland, France, China and Brazil. Zambon is present in 15 countries with more than 2,500 employees. Zambon Company S.p.A. is the industrial holding of the group, with Zach (Zambon Chemicals) which is a preferred partner for API, Custom synthesis and generics products for big pharma corporates; with Zambon S.p.A., the pharma business, which mainly operates in respiratory, pain and women healthcare; with Z-Cube, the corporate research venture, scouting new technologies and drug delivery system opportunities. Thank to privileged relations with the scientific international community, Zambon is creating “Open Zone”, a research and innovation Scientific Campus in Bresso (Milan).

For details on Zambon see <http://www.zamboncompany.com>



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Important Notices

This document contains forward-looking statements, including (without limitation) about (1) Newron's ability to develop and expand its business, successfully complete development of its current product candidates and current and future collaborations for the development and commercialisation of its product candidates and reduce costs (including staff costs), (2) the market for drugs to treat CNS diseases and pain conditions, (3) Newron's anticipated future revenues, capital expenditures and financial resources, and (4) assumptions underlying any such statements. In some cases these statements and assumptions can be identified by the fact that they use words such as "will", "anticipate", "estimate", "expect", "project", "intend", "plan", "believe", "target", and other words and terms of similar meaning. All statements, other than historical facts, contained herein regarding Newron's strategy, goals, plans, future financial position, projected revenues and costs and prospects are forward-looking statements. By their very nature, such statements and assumptions involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific, and risks exist that predictions, forecasts, projections and other outcomes described, assumed or implied therein will not be achieved. Future events and actual results could differ materially from those set out in, contemplated by or underlying the forward-looking statements due to a number of important factors. These factors include (without limitation) (1) uncertainties in the discovery, development or marketing of products, including without limitation negative results of clinical trials or research projects or unexpected side effects, (2) delay or inability in obtaining regulatory approvals or bringing products to market, (3) future market acceptance of products, (4) loss of or inability to obtain adequate protection for intellectual property rights, (5) inability to raise additional funds, (6) success of existing and entry into future collaborations and licensing agreements, (7) litigation, (8) loss of key executive or other employees, (9) adverse publicity and news coverage, and (10) competition, regulatory, legislative and judicial developments or changes in market and/or overall economic conditions.

Newron may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in forward-looking statements and assumptions underlying any such statements may prove wrong. Investors should therefore not place undue reliance on them. There can be no assurance that actual results of Newron's research programmes, development activities, commercialisation plans, collaborations and operations will not differ materially from the expectations set out in such forward-looking statements or underlying assumptions.

Newron does not undertake any obligation to publicly up-date or revise forward looking statements except as may be required by applicable regulations of the SIX Swiss Exchange where the shares of Newron are listed.

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