Launch of novel coronavirus test

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("Novacyt", the "Company" or the "Group")

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Paris, France and Camberley, UK - 31 January 2020 - Novacyt (EURONEXT GROWTH: ALNOV; AIM: NCYT), an international specialist in clinical diagnostics, announces that its molecular diagnostics division, Primerdesign, has launched a new molecular test for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). As announced on 28 January, the research use only (RUO) test has been developed as a direct response to the recent outbreak of the respiratory virus in China.

The Primerdesign coronavirus test has the ability to detect only the 2019 strain of the virus, which the Company believes differentiates it from other current tests which are less specific and may also react to other related species giving rise to a false diagnosis. The Primerdesign test is also stable at ambient temperatures, which eliminates the need for cold chain shipping in tropical climates and therefore improves the efficiency of the test and reduces transport costs.

On 7 January 2020, the Chinese authorities identified a new strain of the coronavirus named 2019-nCoV that had not been previously identified in humans. The outbreak started in the Chinese city of Wuhan, and already thousands of people have been confirmed infected and 170 have died as of 28 January 2020. Significant containment controls and people movement restrictions have been imposed by China and other countries close to China. The presence of the infection has already been reported in 15 other countries. More people have now been infected in China than during the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in the early 2000s.

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak a global emergency as it continues to spread outside of China.

The test has been designed to run on multiple molecular testing platforms, including Primerdesign's own genesig® q16 and q32 instrument, and therefore can be used in large and small laboratories as well as remotely where necessary. The test can generate a result in less than two hours meaning that all samples can be screened quickly which could help stop the unnecessary spread of this virus.

Graham Mullis, Chief Executive Officer of Novacyt commented.

"Over the last few days, we have seen significant early demand for our genesig® 2019-nCoV test from over 10 countries. We believe our assay is the first European test to be made available and will be introduced this weekend at the Medlab Expo in the Middle East. Our rapid response to this latest virus outbreak is a testament to our core competency of in-vitro diagnostic design, development, manufacturing and commercialisation. I am immensely proud of the Primerdesign team which has been able to offer this rapid response for our customers who need fast and reliable diagnostic solutions in times such as these."

This announcement contains inside information for the purposes of Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 596/2014.

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About Novacyt Group

The Novacyt Group is an international diagnostics business generating an increasing portfolio of in vitro and molecular diagnostic tests. Its core strengths lie in diagnostics product development, commercialisation, contract design and manufacturing. The Company's lead business units comprise of Primerdesign and Lab21 Products, supplying an extensive range of high-quality assays and reagents worldwide. The Group directly serves microbiology, haematology and serology markets as do its global partners, which include major corporates.

For more information please refer to the website: www.novacyt.com

About 2019-nCoV

Researchers at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and their collaborators have sequenced the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) pathogen from patient samples and have found it to be genetically distinct from the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus that caused an epidemic in 2002 and 2003, as well as from the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) virus that was detected in 2012.

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