

# Press Release

**ProStrakan Group plc**

## **Abstral Receives Marketing Approval in Germany**

**Galashiels, Scotland, 11 December, 2008** – ProStrakan Group plc (LSE: PSK), the international specialty pharmaceutical company, announces that it has received a Marketing Authorisation from the German regulatory authority (BfArM) for Abstral® (for breakthrough cancer pain). ProStrakan now plans to launch Abstral in Germany and the UK in the first few weeks of 2009, with further launches across Europe during the year.

Abstral (formerly branded as Rapinyl) is a fast-dissolving tablet for sub-lingual (under the tongue) administration of fentanyl, intended for the management of breakthrough cancer pain in patients who are already receiving opioid analgesics. ProStrakan has in-licensed the exclusive rights to this product in Europe and North America from the Swedish pharmaceutical company, Orexo AB.

Through their Nordic Joint Venture, ProStrakan and Orexo successfully launched Abstral in Sweden, its reference state, in August 2008.

Commenting on the grant of the German marketing approval for Abstral, Dr Wilson Totten, Chief Executive of ProStrakan, said:

“Germany is an important market for Abstral and its approval by BfArM is a significant step forward towards its launch there. Our German operation is well advanced in its preparations for launch and we look forward to introducing German oncologists to this important product for cancer patients suffering from the debilitating effects of breakthrough pain.”

Ends

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**Notes to Editors:**

**ProStrakan**

ProStrakan Group plc is a rapidly growing specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the development and commercialisation of prescription medicines for the treatment of unmet therapeutic needs in major markets.

ProStrakan's head office is situated in Galashiels in Scotland. The company's development capabilities are centred on Galashiels and Bedminster, New Jersey, USA. Sales and marketing of ProStrakan's portfolio of products are handled by commercial subsidiaries in the UK, US, France, Germany, Spain and other EU countries.

**[www.prostrakan.com](http://www.prostrakan.com)**

**Breakthrough Cancer Pain**

It is estimated that there are in excess of five million people with cancer in Europe<sup>(1)</sup>, that 30% of these suffer pain as a result<sup>(2)</sup> and that 65% of these have breakthrough cancer pain<sup>(3)</sup>.

Breakthrough cancer pain is a brief and often severe flare of pain experienced by patients suffering from cancer that occurs even though a person may be taking pain relief medicine regularly for their persistent pain. It is known as breakthrough pain because it is pain that "breaks through" a regular pain medicine schedule. It may be caused by the cancer itself or it may be related to cancer treatment. For some people, breakthrough pain occurs during certain everyday activities, such as walking or dressing. For others, it occurs unexpectedly without any apparent cause.

Sources:

<sup>(1)</sup> Cancer Prevalence in European Registry Areas. Micheli et al, Annals of Oncology 13: 840-865, 2002

<sup>(2)</sup> Management of Cancer Pain. Levy M., & Samuel, T Semin Oncol 32: 179-193, 2005

<sup>(3)</sup> Breakthrough Cancer Pain Characteristics and Syndromes in Patients with Cancer Pain. An International Survey. Caraceni et al, Palliative Medicine 2004; 18: 177 et seq

**[www.prostrakan.com](http://www.prostrakan.com)**