



Contact Information:

Media
Jacqueline Franchetti
JFCI
516 365 2091
jacqueline@ifci.com

Investors
Juliane Snowden
Snowden & Associates
908 788 7050
julianes@earthlink.net

AVIVA BIOSCIENCES ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF ITS MANUFACTURING FACILITY AND APPOINTMENT OF A PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

- Company Enters Commercialization Phase as SealChip™ Sales Begin -

February 11th, 2003 – San Diego, CA – AVIVA Biosciences Corporation announced today it has opened its 15,000-square-foot new corporate headquarters and 2,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and hired Glenn Walker as Director of Production. This announcement marks a critical step in the commercialization of the Company's first product, SealChip™, a revolutionary ion channel patch clamp chip that is sold for use in Axon Instruments' PatchXpress™ 7000 new and innovative drug discovery system.

"The opening of our new manufacturing facility is an outstanding milestone achievement for AVIVA," commented Norrie Russell, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of AVIVA. "Without the drive and commitment our employees have to AVIVA, we would not be generating revenues from product sales. This is an impressive achievement for an early stage company in the biotechnology industry."

The utilization of SealChip in the PatchXpress7000 instrument has the potential to revolutionize ion channel research, which will lead to new and less toxic compounds entering pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies' product pipelines. Ion channels represent nearly 25% of all potential drug targets, yet they represent only about 5% of marketed therapies. The current patch-clamp technique is a time, labor intensive, and costly manual process. SealChip, a 16-well disposable chip, is the exclusive ion channel patch clamp chip used in PatchXpress7000, which for the first time, fully automates the demanding requirements of this research process and gives drug discovery laboratories the capability to perform several thousand measurements per day while also minimizing risk of human error. Both Axon and AVIVA believe their technologies will be extremely attractive drug discovery and screening tools for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, as well as academia.

"When a company builds a manufacturing facility, it must identify and retain highly qualified employees who understand all the different components required to build and maintain the necessary quality control and production processes," continued Dr. Russell. "I am very pleased Mr. Walker decided to leave the consulting world and join AVIVA as its Director of Production. His background and experience will be a significant asset to AVIVA, today and in the near future as we introduce additional products to the marketplace."

Mr. Walker has extensive experience in manufacturing and research and development at pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device companies, in addition to academia. His experience and knowledge will allow AVIVA to rapidly implement its manufacturing process, to ensure the highest-quality products are produced, and to identify areas that can be streamlined, reducing manufacturing costs. Mr. Walker was most recently a consultant where he planned and managed software and equipment validation activities for several leading biotechnology companies. Mr. Walker's corporate experience includes Abbott Laboratories and Qualisys Diagnostics. Mr. Walker began his career at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Mr. Walker received a BS in biology and minors in chemistry and electrical engineering from the University of Arkansas Little Rock.

AVIVA Biosciences

Based in San Diego, Calif., AVIVA Biosciences Corporation develops enabling drug discovery and diagnostic technologies by integrating chemistry and cell biology into biochips. Key application areas include electrophysiology research, ion channel drug screening, and rare-cell isolation. The Company's new address is 11180 Roselle Street, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92121-1211. The new telephone number is 858 552 0888.