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**CUMBERLAND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES SIGNS BIODTECH
AS NEW TENANT FOR LIFE SCIENCES CENTER**

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (JANUARY 17, 2005) – Cumberland Emerging Technologies, Inc. (CET) and BioDtech, Inc. have signed an agreement making BioDtech one of the growing number of tenants to lease space in CET’s life sciences facility, located downtown adjacent to the Union Station Hotel.

BioDtech (www.biodtechinc.com) is a biotechnology research and development company formed to create timely, inexpensive and user-friendly diagnostic devices to measure biological toxins, neutralize them, and find reliable methods for their removal. In particular, BioDtech’s products aim at the rapid detection of endotoxin, which indicates the presence of bacteria that can lead to conditions such as sepsis, a potentially lethal bacterial infection, as well as bacteria used in biological warfare. The company’s research and development efforts are led by President and CEO Michael G. Pepe, Ph.D., whose 20 years of diagnostic and drug discovery development experience includes positions as founding and lead scientist at two biopharmaceutical companies. Co-founder and Vice President of Finance and Operations, Ira Weiss, also has 20 years of biotech/biomedical as well as financial, legal and operations experience, having served in executive positions at several successful biotech startup companies.

“Our research addresses an immediate need in hospital emergency departments and the pharmaceutical and medical device industry, and has potential for great value in other areas as well,” said Dr. Pepe, CEO of BioDtech. “We welcome the opportunity to further our work through partnership with CET, which will help support us through the funding and development phases of our process, as well as the pathway to commercialization.”

Currently, the Food and Drug Administration requires that all injectable drugs and implantable medical devices be measured for endotoxin. However, the two detection devices available are time consuming, costly, and require extensive training. In the hospital emergency department, a rapid, user-friendly endotoxin measurement device could facilitate early diagnosis of sepsis, a syndrome characterized by an overwhelming systemic response to infection, which

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can rapidly lead to organ dysfunction and ultimately death. More than 750,000 cases of severe sepsis occur annually in the U.S., causing the death of 215,000 people and costing hospitals approximately \$17 billion each year. A portable diagnostic device could assist in the detection of bacteria such as E.coli and Salmonella in the hospitality industry. It could help detect endotoxin in the home believed to be linked to respiratory disease, and in the workplace where it is anticipated that, in the next few years, the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety may establish and regulate acceptable levels of endotoxin. Such a product could also aid in the detection of bacteria used in biomedical warfare. Finally, BioDtech will investigate the use of its technology to treat microbial infections associated with Cystic Fibrosis and AIDS.

“We are pleased to welcome BioDtech to our Life Sciences Center,” said A.J. Kazimi, CEO of Cumberland Pharmaceuticals and CET. “Their research looks to reduce the cost of medical care and has life-saving potential, and we are excited to provide the infrastructure to help them continue this important work.”

Cumberland Emerging Technologies, Inc. (CET) is a joint initiative between Vanderbilt University, Cumberland Pharmaceuticals Inc. and the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation (TTDC). The mission of CET (www.cet-fund.com) is to bring biomedical technologies and products conceived at Vanderbilt and other regional research centers to the commercial marketplace. CET helps manage the development and commercialization process for select projects, and provides expertise on intellectual property, regulatory, manufacturing, and marketing issues that are critical to successful new biomedical products. The shared laboratory was supported by a \$100,000 Tennessee Industrial Infrastructure Program (TIIP) grant to CET and the TTDC.

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