



press release

Hygea VCT shares dual traded on Sharemark and Main List

- Hygea is the latest company to dual trade on Sharemark and Main List
 - Order-driven mechanism interacts with quote-driven market
 - Hygea hopes move will help address liquidity problems

9 November 2009 – Sharemark, a leading alternative trading platform, today announced Hygea VCT plc has joined the market allowing its shares to be dual traded on Sharemark and the Main List.

Sophie Douglas, manager of Sharemark, said: “We are very pleased to welcome Hygea VCT which is the latest company to be dual traded between Sharemark and the Main List. The admission demonstrates our ability to provide an order-driven mechanism which effectively interacts with quote-driven markets.”

Hygea VCT plc is a fund focusing on investing in medical technology companies, including devices, drug delivery systems, and diagnostics. Sharemark lends itself particularly well to companies that suffer from a lack of liquidity, such as VCTs, as Iain Wallace, director of Sharemark highlighted.

“Mature VCTs experience unreasonably wide bid-offer spreads in main market trading, and this must affect potential demand considerably,” said Wallace.

“We have long considered the availability of Sharemark for dual trading to be the catalyst for a considerable tightening of these spreads, and look forward to Hygea’s initiative being used as a model for other mature VCTs to increase investor activity.”

On joining Sharemark, Charles Breese of Hygea, said: “The Hygea VCT shareholder base is made up entirely of private investors. They need a trading system which eliminates the significant cost of the spread generally suffered by investors in small caps relying only on a quote driven system.

“Sharemark helps companies provide a solution to this problem. It allows private investors to have direct access without recourse to third parties, enabling the pool of informed people monitoring the supply and demand for shares to be significantly increased and also for there to be a larger pool of long-term capital directly available to meet supply.”

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About Sharemark

Sharemark is a periodic auction-based dealing facility designed primarily for emerging or smaller companies. Its website www.sharemark.com shows bids to buy and offers to sell. The price is set at each auction by calculating the single price at which as many orders as possible will be filled. Auction frequency is generally determined by the number of shareholders a company has and the likely trading volumes.

The investments and/or services referred to in this document may not be suitable for every investor and if in doubt you should contact a financial adviser. It may be difficult for investors to buy and sell investments referred to and/or obtain reliable information about their value or the extent of risks to which the price is exposed. Share prices on Sharemark may be subject to sudden and large falls in value given the restricted marketability of the shares/units and you may not get back the amount you originally invested.

Sharemark constitutes a Multilateral Trading Facility and is not a Recognised Investment Exchange, Clearing House or Regulated Market within the meaning of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive. Sharemark is a trading division of The Share Centre Limited, which is a member of the London Stock Exchange and authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority under reference 146768. Sharemark is a registered trademark.

Registered in England No. 2461949. Registered office: Oxford House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 8SZ

About Hygea

Hygea VCT was launched in 2001 as BioScience VCT to invest in bioscience companies, with a particular focus on investing in treatment development companies. Since then the board has shifted emphasis to investing in medical technology companies, for example devices, drug delivery systems and diagnostics.

The investment strategy of Hygea VCT is to seek companies with the potential to conform to certain key criteria including an industry relevant team, competitive value to customers, scalability in global markets and a recurring business revenue model.

Companies in which the VCT has invested to date include BioAnaLab Ltd, DxS Ltd, Immunodiagnostics plc, Epistem Holdings plc, Omega Diagnostics Group plc, Prosurgics Ltd, Hallmarq Veterinary Imaging and Scancell plc.