



## For Immediate Release

### CyGenics on Track to Launch Cord Blood Banking Services in India in 2007

#### Key Points:

- State-of-the-art facility under construction in India, scheduled to be operational in Q2 2007
- Medical & Laboratory Director appointed
- Alliances with key hospitals and leading obstetricians being established
- Sales and marketing teams to be established in key Indian cities

9<sup>th</sup> November 2006 – Leading tissue and cord blood banking company CyGenics Ltd (ASX: CYN) today updated the market on the progress of its Indian operation.

A site for the construction of a state-of-the-art tissue processing and storage facility has been purchased on the outskirts of Kolkata. It is expected that the facility will be fully operational in Q2 2007.

The facility will have storage for more than 40,000 units of cord blood units and provision for extending the storage capacity.

“Our new Indian operation is progressing well,” said Steven Fang, Group CEO of CyGenics. “We have worked closely with the Indian authorities and others to ensure that our facility will meet local and international standards. We have no doubt that this will be the pre-eminent facility of its kind in India.”

Dr Prosanto Kumar Chowdhury, a well-respected paediatrician, has been appointed Medical & Laboratory Director to oversee the setting-up of the facility and laboratory operations. Dr. Chowdhury was previously head of the Department of Immuno-Haematology and Thalassaemia, Kothari Medical Center & Research Institute, and of the Borhuka Research Centre for Haematology & Blood Transfusion.

Leveraging off the extensive local networks of CyGenics’ local partner, Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals, the company is actively establishing and developing strategic alliances with key hospitals and leading obstetricians in selected cities. An example of such an alliance is our exclusive market awareness and public education collaboration with Woodlands Medical Centre, a leading private hospital in Kolkata.

By early next year, CyGenics expects to have put in place full sales and marketing teams in the following major cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune and Kolkata.



Medium term expansion plans include establishing sales teams for the Eastern Indian states of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Jharkhand.

“India is a very significant market for CyGenics, particularly given the demographics of the country. Half of the population of 1.1 billion is under the 25 and the country has enjoyed an average growth rate of 6% over the past 23 years, one of the fastest in the world. The middle class has grown at about the same rate and is thought to exceed 250 million today”, Mr Fang said.

#### **About Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals**

Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals Ltd. was set up in 1987 by a Kolkata-based business group having interests in metal packaging materials, glass containers and PET bottles. Today the Company is recognised as one of the leading pharmaceutical houses in Eastern India. The company operates a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Kolkata. Strassenburg has an extensive marketing and distribution network in the territory.

#### **About CyGenics**

CyGenics (ASX: CYN), is a healthcare company focussed on tissue and cord blood banking. CyGenics owns and operates the largest network of private cord blood banks in the Australasian region and has a portfolio of stem cell technology related investments. Its major subsidiary, CordLife, is a regional cord blood bank that operates a state-of-the-art AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks) accredited facility in Singapore and a separate compliant facility in Hong Kong. CordLife’s facility was the first private cord blood bank to be set up in Singapore, and among the first in Asia. It is the only AABB-accredited cord blood bank in this region. These banking facilities comprise full processing and cryogenic storage capabilities. For further information, please visit [www.cygenics.com](http://www.cygenics.com) or [www.cordlife.com](http://www.cordlife.com).

#### **About Cord Blood Stem Cells**

Cord blood stem cells are most commonly used to treat several different types of blood cancers, such as acute leukemias, other blood disorders and various inherited disorders. Stem cells from cord blood are described as 'adult' to distinguish them from the stem cells derived from embryos. Research into the use of these cells has shown that adult stem cells can also be used to treat autoimmune diseases such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, and rheumatoid arthritis. Early clinical studies also suggest that they can help avert corneal degeneration and restore vision in cases of blindness, can help to restore proper cardiac function to heart attack sufferers and can improve movement in spinal cord injury patients. Stem cells from cord blood have a number of advantages over stem cells collected later in life, including a lower risk of rejection.



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