Sophion and Hydra Establish a Unique Reference Site for QPatch Automated Patch Clamp System

CAMBRIDGE, MA — April 1, 2005 — Sophion Bioscience, Inc. (New Jersey, USA) and Hydra Biosciences, Inc. (Cambridge, MA, USA) announced today the establishment of an East Coast reference site for the QPatch automated patch clamp system. Sophion installed the system at Hydra earlier this month. Hydra will integrate the QPatch into its own ion channel cardiovascular drug discovery programs. Sophion will demonstrate this enabling technology at Hydra to pharmaceutical/biotech companies and academic researchers involved in ion channel research, drug discovery and/or safety testing.

"A reference QPatch system at Hydra provides a unique venue for Sophion Bioscience, Inc. to showcase this automated patch clamp system in the US," said Chris Mathes, Ph.D., Sophion's Vice-President and General Manager for North America. "We are especially excited because of the opportunity for potential customers to see the QPatch working in a real-life drug discovery environment."

"We are excited about this collaboration with Sophion Bioscience," said Glenn Larsen, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer of Hydra. "The QPatch will dramatically enhance the efficiency of our ion channel drug discovery efforts because of its higher throughput and high quality patch clamping ability."

About Sophion Bioscience, Inc.
Sophion Bioscience, Inc. is a US Subsidiary of Sophion Bioscience A/S (Denmark), established in December 2004. Sophion's sole focus is to provide advanced products and integrated solutions for automated patch clamping. Sophion's first product is the QPatch 16. Sophion Bioscience A/S was founded in July 2000, emerging from a successful research and development program at NeuroSearch, QPatch 16 is an automated patch clamp system that provides high-quality patch clamp data on a truly industrial basis. The QPatch 16 is the first system in its class with integrated cell preparation and QPlate exchange facilities enabling several hours of unattended operation. The unique flow channel system implemented in the consumable QPlates enables fast liquid exchange around the cell and provides the option to test multiple compounds or concentrations on the same cell. For more information about QPatch, please contact: Chris Mathes, Ph.D., VP, General Manager of Sophion Bioscience, Inc. (USA): cma@sophion.com. See also www.sophion.com.

About Hydra Biosciences Inc.
Hydra is developing novel therapeutics based on two innovative discovery platforms: regenerative therapeutics that reprogram a patient's own cells to restore damaged or injured tissue without scarring; and proprietary ion channel modulators. The Company is privately held and based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. More information about Hydra Biosciences is available at: www.hydrabiosciences.com