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**THE BICOLL GROUP SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES A PUBLIC PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP (PPP) PROJECT WITH THE DEUTSCHE INVESTITIONS- UND
ENTWICKLUNGSGESELLSCHAFT MBH (DEG)**

Munich, Germany – Dec 12th, 2003 – The Bicoll GmbH, announced today that it has successfully completed a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project in the field of environmental protection in China. Bicoll carried out this extensive and ambitious project together with its public partner Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG) in coordination function for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The costs of this roughly 500 000 € project were shared 55/45 between Bicoll and the BMZ (resp. DEG).

Most of the Chinese rich floral biodiversity is increasingly threatened by human activities. The direct, non-regulated collection of herbs and plants for Traditional Chinese Medicine is only one of the facts that endanger rare species.

With DEG's commitment to carry 45% of the total costs, Bicoll could start a unique educational program to demonstrate the economic value of preservation to local people making them more sensitive to the necessity of protecting biodiversity.

"Bicoll elaborated a completely new business model to prove that innovative and modern research and development of novel, western-standard pharmaceuticals and the conservation of biodiversity can go hand in hand" explained Dr. Christian Haug, chairman of board of directors of Bicoll Biotechnology (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. "Though the starting materials for Bicoll's innovative drug development process are generated from endemic Asian plants, the protection of biodiversity is guaranteed through Bicoll's highly efficient use of resources. The collection of larger amounts of plants is not attempted for further drug development as only a hand full of the rare natural sources is necessary for Bicoll's lead structure library and screening systems."

With DEG's help, Bicoll was able to establish one of the most modern research laboratories for drug development in China. As all value-added services of Bicoll's drug development process are carried out in China, the company not only guarantees a sustainable financial flow to local communities but also provides Western technology and transfers know-how into a developing country.

"We appreciate DEG's confidence and esteem of our project" expressed Dr. Christian Haug his thanks

to Claudia Wink and Renate Katenkamp (DEG) who presented to him a golden badge for the successful conclusion of Bicoll's PPP project.

About Bicoll

Bicoll is a biopharmaceutical company specializing in high-tech natural product chemistry to identify novel small molecules for drug discovery and related innovative fields. The research focus lays on making compounds from natural resources compatible with customers' screening systems for drug discovery and various other fields of application. Bicoll's advanced approach of property-based screening selects promising candidates early on and avoids investment in less promising compounds. Bicoll's products and services are tailored to its customers' needs to accelerate the development process of new pharmaceuticals.

About Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG) and PPP projects

The DEG is one of Europe's largest development finance institutions specializing in long-term project and corporate financing for private sector investments in Asia, Latin America, Africa as well as Central and Eastern Europe. DEG has so far cooperated with more than 950 private enterprises and is currently active in about 80 countries, having financed a total of more than 4.2 billion €. In addition, DEG, among other institutions, executes the Public Private Partnership program of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ).

PPP projects are expected to make a contribution to the national development and have a beneficial impact on the environment and social relations. The private enterprise acts as project leader that transfers technology and knowledge but benefits economically in the long run.