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PETE HOTTEN JOINS H2O VENTURE PARTNERS

Dr Pete Hotten has joined the H2O team as Senior Investment Manager, covering Life Sciences.

Pete gained a PhD in Microbial Enzymology and moved to Aberdeen as a post-doctoral researcher in the Rowett Research Institute working on animal nutrition, gradually moving from enzymology into the field of molecular biology.



He then transferred over to the technology transfer arm of the Rowett Institute, becoming Managing Director of Rowett Research Services Ltd within a short period. During his 8-year directorship, Pete increased the turnover and staffing levels, enlarging the company and starting up some new divisions, including the clinical trials division.

In 1998 Pete moved to Oxford to work for Isis Innovation Ltd (the technology transfer company of the University of Oxford), where he was responsible for spinning out several biotechnology companies. As a result of joining Isis, Pete was invited to become a non-executive director of Oxford Gene Technology (OGT) in 1998. As the OGT role grew Pete left Isis to become an executive director of OGT in 2002 where he continued to develop the management of the company's intellectual property (IP) portfolio, putting through a number of high-value deals and prosecuting unauthorised use of OGT's technology. This activity resulted in about \$200M-worth of business.

After leaving OGT early this year, Pete started up a consultancy specialising in technology transfer issues, IP strategy and development of early stage technology based companies. He was approached by H2O to work as a part-time consultant. Dr David Kelly, CEO of H2O, said: "Pete has extensive experience in establishing new technology-based companies, and will be a valuable asset to H2O. We are delighted to welcome him on board."

"I am impressed by the H2O model and believe it has a very important role in helping establish high-value technology companies," Pete said. "I've known David for many years, and I look forward to the new challenges with H2O."

Pete specialises in life science projects at H2O, including a joint project with Ploughshare Innovations Ltd on liposome based diagnostic technology and the further development of 360 Diagnostics, a joint venture between H2O and the Oxford-based biotechnology company, Oxitec.

For further information, please call Paul Coleman or David Kelly on: +44 (0)1865 251000 or email Info@h2ovp.com