



Market release  
21 March 2017

## **AFT Pharmaceuticals In-Licenses NovaTears® in Australia and New Zealand**

AFT Pharmaceuticals (AFT) has completed a licensing agreement with Novaliq, a German specialty pharmaceutical company, to distribute *NovaTears*® in Australia and New Zealand.

*NovaTears*® is an ophthalmic product for the treatment of evaporative dry eye diseases (DEDs) developed by Novaliq and sold across Europe under the brand name *EvoTears*®.

Under the terms of the agreement, Novaliq has granted AFT an exclusive license for the commercialisation of *NovaTears*® across Australasia. In return for these rights, Novaliq will receive an undisclosed upfront payment and royalties on net sales of *NovaTears*®.

“AFT is dedicated to bringing innovative products to market that make a real difference to people’s health,” said Dr Hartley Atkinson, CEO of AFT.

“The addition of *NovaTears*® to our eye care line will be welcomed by doctors and patients alike. It’s a first-in-class, water-free and preservative-free treatment based on Novaliq’s proprietary EyeSol® technology platform. *NovaTears*® supports the lipid layer of the tear film by its ability to quickly spread and be absorbed into the eye. We believe that this feature - combined with its small droplet size - will provide superior benefits to patients with evaporative dry eye disease.”

“This will also help advance our position in the lubricating eye drop market where currently AFT holds the number 4 position in both Australia and New Zealand. This also fits with our strategy of strengthening our market position in categories where we already hold a significant position. Sales from the New Zealand market are expected

to be achieved within the FY2018 financial year, and Australian sales the year following,” said Dr Atkinson.

“Novaliq is delighted to collaborate with AFT, a leading and innovative pharmaceutical company with a strong commitment to eye care,” said Christian Roesky, PhD, CEO of Novaliq.

“*NovaTears*® provides a highly differentiated and clinically validated treatment option that significantly improves the signs and symptoms of evaporative DED and Meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD), highly underserved diseases. We are confident that dry eye patients in Australasia will greatly benefit from the use of *NovaTears*® and our partnership with AFT.”

[End of release]

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#### **About *NovaTears*®**

*NovaTears*®, the first product developed and commercialized that incorporates Novaliq’s proprietary EyeSol® technology, is an innovative multi-dose, non-aqueous and preservative-free topical eye drop for the lubrication of the ocular surface. The *NovaTears*® droplet forms a thin and smooth protecting film supporting the lipid layer in its function to prevent tear evaporation for the relief of dry eye and irritated eye symptoms. *NovaTears*® has been classified as a class IIa medical device and received CE mark approval in Europe in July 2013. Open, prospective, uncontrolled post-market clinical studies NT-001 and NT 002 successfully demonstrated tolerability and significant improvement in signs and symptoms dry eye disease and Meibomian Gland Dysfunction. All results of the study point towards excellent clinical performance, safety and high convenience and acceptance of *NovaTears*® for patients suffering from hyper-evaporative dry eye.

**About AFT Pharmaceuticals** – AFT founded in 1997 is an Auckland, New Zealand, based pharmaceuticals company operating in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. AFT is listed on the Australian [ASX] and New Zealand [NZX] stock exchanges since December 2015 and has significant local sales operations in Australasia together with R&D activities in pain, orphan drugs and medical devices.

**About Novaliq** – Novaliq GmbH, founded in 2004, is a Heidelberg based specialty pharmaceutical company focused on ophthalmology. Its mission is to transform poorly soluble drugs into effective ocular therapeutics for both the front and the back of the eye. Novaliq’s proprietary EyeSol® technology enhances the topical bio availability,

stability and safety of traditionally insoluble or unstable drugs improving the delivery, efficacy and convenience of treatments for ocular surface diseases including dry eye through preservative free and multi dose formulations. Novaliq's most advanced product is NovaTears® with CE-marking based on Novaliq's proprietary EyeSol® technology. NovaTears® is marketed under the brand name EvoTears® in Europe.