

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE
Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Acquisition Notification Requirements in Compliance with Hart-Scott-Rodino Act

Vancouver, BC- March 15, 2006 – Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: ANPI; TSX: ANP) was advised yesterday by the Federal Trade Commission that the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 ("HSR Act") has terminated, allowing Angiotech to proceed with the previously announced acquisition of privately-held American Medical Instruments Holdings, Inc. (AMI), subject to the satisfaction of the remaining closing conditions.

On February 16, 2006, Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced that it had filed notification with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission of its intent to acquire AMI, in compliance with the pre-merger notification requirements of the HSR Act.

About Angiotech Pharmaceuticals

Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a specialty pharmaceutical company that discovers and develops innovative treatment solutions for diseases or complications associated with medical device implants, surgical interventions and acute injury or trauma. To find out more about Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: ANPI, TSX: ANP), please visit our website at www.angiotech.com.

About American Medical Instruments

American Medical Instruments Holdings, Inc. (AMI) is a leading independent manufacturer of a variety of single-use medical device products for specialty areas such as vascular surgery, interventional radiology, general surgery, wound closure, and minimally-invasive cosmetic surgery. AMI was formed in 2003 following the purchase of a majority interest in several medical technology companies by RoundTable Healthcare Partners from The Marmon Group.

Statements contained herein that are not based on historical or current fact, including without limitation statements containing the words "anticipates," "believes," "may," "continue," "estimate," "expects," and "will" and words of similar import, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, events or developments to be materially different from any future results, events or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among others, the following: general economic and business conditions, both nationally and in the regions in which the Company operates; technology changes; competition; changes in business strategy or development plans; the ability to attract and retain qualified personnel; existing governmental regulations and changes in, or the failure to comply with, governmental regulations; liability and other claims asserted against the Company; and other factors referenced in the Company's filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or the Canadian securities regulators. Given these uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The Company does not assume the obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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