Sosei Heptares to Explore Structure-based Drug Discovery (SBDD) Approaches to Ion Channels through Strategic Technology Collaboration with Metrion Biosciences

- Ion channels represent a large but under-exploited class of drug targets beyond G protein-coupled proteins (GPCRs)
- Collaboration combines Sosei Heptares’ leading structure-based drug design platform with Metrion Biosciences’ ion channel expertise
- Joint drug discovery program to focus on a single ion channel that is a well-validated target for neurological diseases

Tokyo, Japan and Cambridge, UK, 1 February 2021— Sosei Group Corporation ("the Company"; TSE: 4565) announces it will apply its world-leading structure-based drug design (SBDD) expertise and platform to ion channels for the first time through a new strategic collaboration with Metrion Biosciences Limited ("Metrion"), the specialist ion channel CRO and drug discovery company.

Ion channels are a class of integral membrane proteins that regulate the flow of ions across the cell membrane as a means of conducting signals between cells and their environment. They are well-established drug targets, particularly in neurological and cardiovascular diseases, but many remain undrugged or poorly drugged, and may be tractable to structure-based approaches.

The collaboration aims to demonstrate the potential of Sosei Heptares’ SBDD technologies to address disease-associated ion channels and work towards establishing a leadership position in this area, in a similar way that it has done for G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs).

As a first step, Sosei Heptares and Metrion will combine their respective capabilities in a drug discovery program to identify novel, highly specific drug leads for further development against a single ion channel associated with neurological diseases.

Metrion will contribute intellectual property, know-how and use of screening models for the nominated ion channel target. Sosei Heptares will apply its technologies for structure determination studies and SBDD. Sosei Heptares will have exclusive, full global rights to all molecules identified and directed to the targets for development by Sosei Heptares. No further financial details are disclosed.

Rob Cooke, Chief Technology Officer of Sosei Heptares, commented: “We are extremely pleased to enter this collaboration with Metrion in the hugely exciting area of ion channels. Their experience enables us to extend our world-leading expertise in Structure-Based Drug Discovery for GPCRs to other membrane proteins where structural input to drug discovery has been more limited. This strategic technology collaboration is the latest in a series we have made with highly
innovative companies in recent months designed to strengthen our platform and enhance our
discovery and partnering opportunities. In addition to Metrion, these collaborations with Captor
Therapeutics in targeted protein degradation and with PharmEnable to access proprietary
artificial intelligence-enabled and medicinal chemistry technologies are a key factor to drive our
future growth ambitions.”

Andrew Southan, Chief Executive Officer of Metrion Biosciences, added: “Resolving the 3D
structure of ion channel proteins has great potential to accelerate the discovery of potent,
selective new drugs targeting this highly important class of human proteins. This opportunity to
combine Metrion Biosciences’ depth of target class knowledge and assay expertise with Sosei
Heptares’ Structure-Based Drug Discovery capabilities has considerable potential to achieve
scientific and commercial breakthroughs in this field. On behalf of the entire Metrion team I
would like to thank Sosei Heptares for selecting Metrion Biosciences for this work and we look
forward to a successful alliance.”

-ENDS-

About Sosei Heptares
We are an international biopharmaceutical group focused on the discovery and early
development of new medicines originating from our proprietary GPCR-targeted StaR® technology
and structure-based drug design platform capabilities. We are advancing a broad and deep
pipeline of novel medicines across multiple therapeutic areas, including neurology, immunology,
gastroenterology and inflammatory diseases.

We have established partnerships with some of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies,
including AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Biohaven, Genentech (Roche), GSK, Novartis, Pfizer and Takeda
and additionally with multiple emerging technology companies. Sosei Heptares is headquartered
in Tokyo, Japan with corporate and R&D facilities in Cambridge, UK.

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on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (ticker: 4565). Sosei, Heptares, the logo and StaR® are trademarks
of Sosei Group companies.

For more information, please visit https://www.soseiheptares.com/
LinkedIn: @soseiheptaresco | Twitter: @soseiheptaresco | YouTube: @soseiheptaresco

About Metrion Biosciences
Metrion Biosciences is a specialist ion-channel contract research organization and drug discovery
business. The Company provides customers with access to a range of high-quality ion channel
assays on a fee-for-service or collaboration basis. Metrion Biosciences’ ion channel expertise
includes an industry leading panel of in vitro cardiac ion channel safety assays, translational native
cell and phenotypic assays for neurological and cardiotoxicity testing, and a range of other ion
channel screening services such as cell line development and optimization. Metrion Biosciences
is able to provide tailored assay formats, data analysis and reporting solutions, effective project management and quality assured data packages.

For more information, please visit www.metrionbiosciences.com
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**Forward-looking statements**
This press release contains forward-looking statements, including statements about the discovery, development and commercialization of products. Various risks may cause Sosei Group Corporation’s actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including: adverse results in clinical development programs; failure to obtain patent protection for inventions; commercial limitations imposed by patents owned or controlled by third parties; dependence upon strategic alliance partners to develop and commercialize products and services; difficulties or delays in obtaining regulatory approvals to market products and services resulting from development efforts; the requirement for substantial funding to conduct research and development and to expand commercialization activities; and product initiatives by competitors. As a result of these factors, prospective investors are cautioned not to rely on any forward-looking statements. We disclaim any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.