



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **GRAFFINITY AND RIGEL ENTER INTO DRUG DISCOVERY RESEARCH ALLIANCE**

HEIDELBERG, Germany — June 3, 2008 — Graffinity Pharmaceuticals GmbH announced today that it has entered into a drug discovery collaboration with Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: RIGL). In this collaboration Graffinity will provide Rigel with access to its proprietary, fragment-based discovery technology for use against Rigel drug targets.

Under the terms of the agreement, Graffinity will receive technology access fees, success milestones, and optional payments for follow-up chemistry for the generation of novel small molecule hits. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed.

Mathias Woker, Chief Business Officer of Graffinity, stated, "Our collaboration with Rigel demonstrates again that Graffinity's fragment based drug discovery technology is one of the most important, rapid and reliable alternatives to standard primary screening techniques for the identification of NCEs. When leading biotechnology companies, such as Rigel, choose to work with us, they know that they significantly increase their chances of finding truly novel small molecule drugs against challenging drug targets. Graffinity's SPR imaging technology together with its large and diverse 23,000 fragment screening library provides a wealth of drug discovery information that remains unparalleled today."

Kristina Schmidt, CEO of Graffinity, remarked, "We are very pleased that Rigel has selected us as a discovery partner. Rigel is an outstanding company which has proven that it is focused on and capable of creating breakthrough results in drug discovery. Therefore, Rigel's decision to work with us represents a strong endorsement of Graffinity and its unique technology."

#### **About Graffinity Pharmaceuticals GmbH**

Heidelberg, Germany based Graffinity Pharmaceuticals is a leader in the field of small molecule fragment based drug discovery. The company pursues high-profile drug discovery collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide. Graffinity employs a flexible business model which allows it to tailor programs to the specific needs of each partner and offers numerous benefits to its customers on a straightforward fee-

for-service basis. Graffinity's fragment screening platform combines chemical microarrays with a proprietary method for the standardized, label-free detection of compound-protein interactions via SPR imaging. The company's rapid and scalable drug discovery technology explores a rich chemical universe to identify drug fragments which address challenging drug targets. With its 110,000-compound library that contains 23,000 true fragments, Graffinity possesses one of the most diverse fragment libraries. Graffinity has established collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotechnology partners including Amgen, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Genentech, Merck-Serono and Pfizer.

Graffinity's unique fragment based discovery platform has been invented in 1998, and has been in routine industrial use since 2002 in screening more than 70 drug targets.

For more information, please visit [www.graffinity.com](http://www.graffinity.com).

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