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## ASX Announcement and Media Release

18 April, 2005

**SciGen Limited**

### **Fast tracking hepatitis B vaccine production**

SciGen Limited (“SciGen” or the “Company”) announced today that it had established a wholly-owned subsidiary company in Yavne, Israel [SciGen IL Ltd.] to undertake manufacture of SciGen’s third generation hepatitis B vaccine Sci-B-Vac™.

SciGen IL Ltd. has rented appropriate GMP-certified premises for manufacturing and is outfitting those premises with all necessary equipment to manufacture Sci-B-Vac™. On current best estimates, initial production batches of Sci-B-Vac™ will emerge in September/October 2005. The facility will need to undergo certain validations and inspections. Best case estimate for sales of Sci-B-Vac™ to recommence in SciGen’s territories is in Quarter 2 2007. The facility in Israel is not mutually exclusive to the contract manufacturing arrangements with Shreya Biotech in India. Construction of this facility in India is well underway and it will produce a number of SciGen’s products. The facility in Israel will not only provide for an earlier re-entry of Sci-B-Vac™ into the market, but will continue to operate after the Indian facility comes on line, so as to provide a back-up facility to ensure continuity of supply in the unlikely event of a catastrophic event affecting the Shreya Biotech facility in India.

In addition to securing first class premises, SciGen has also engaged a first class technical team. The members of the technical team have significant expertise in producing mammalian cell derived biotechnology products, but specifically (and more importantly) production of Sci-B-Vac™. This should dramatically facilitate successful production of Sci-B-Vac™ at the earliest opportunity.

Part of the proceeds from the previously announced share placement to Bioton SA will fund the establishment of this facility.

## About SciGen

SciGen Ltd is a biopharmaceutical company essentially involved in commercialising later stage research. It co-develops and markets genetically engineered biopharmaceutical products for human healthcare. SciGen focuses in the areas of gastroenterology, endocrinology and immunology. Its product portfolio includes vaccines and therapeutics.

SciGen acquires rights to manufacture, distribute and market biopharmaceutical products under exclusive licensing arrangements. SciGen's portfolio currently includes proprietary biotechnology-derived products, and biogeneric products, which can allow for faster entry into the market, as biogeneric products have undergone much of the clinical development and trials required to bring new drugs to market. This minimises the risks associated with early stage product development. SciGen currently undertakes R&D activities in collaboration with strategic partners and institutions.

SciGen's competitive advantage is in identifying research with commercial potential at an early stage to which it adds its expertise in gaining regulatory approval and bringing products to market

SciGen is a Singaporean biotechnology company, established in 1988 and listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX code SIE). SciGen is headquartered in Singapore, with offices also in Australia, USA, Korea, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Philippines and partners in India, China, Indonesia, Israel, Poland and the Netherlands.

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## Media enquiries

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