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For More Information Contact:

William J. Jones III

Global Marketing Director

(336) 812-8700 (xt. 3801)

## Banner Soflet® Gelcaps Offer Increased Protection Against Drug Counterfeiting and Tampering

HIGH POINT, NC — Banner Soflet® Gelcaps can serve as a redundant safeguard with Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) to help prevent counterfeiting of many susceptible tablet products. Soflet Gelcaps, a consumer-preferred dosage form, is a unique, patented enrobing technology that provides tamper-evident security for valuable brand franchises at a cost of only pennies per tablet.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that counterfeit drugs cause more than 100,000 deaths a year worldwide. As a result WHO has created the International Medical Product Anti-Counterfeiting Task-force (IMPACT). They have also created a global plan to attack this issue. The IMPACT plan focuses on 5 areas:

- Legislative and regulatory infrastructure
- Regulatory implementation
- Enforcement
- Technology
- and Risk communication

PharmaVOICE (November/December 2006) reports:

- Estimates put counterfeit drugs at more than 10% of the global medicines market.
- Counterfeit drugs are estimated to be 25% of the medicines consumed in developing countries; in some countries, the figure is thought to be as high as 50%.
- It is predicted that counterfeit drug sales will reach \$75 billion globally in 2010, an increase of more than 90% from 2005.

The Soflet Gelcaps technology, originated by Banner, provides excellent security backup because of the complex manufacturing process that puts a tightly adhering gelatin film around the tablet core, producing a tamper-evident, and tamper-resistant shield.

"Our motivation in creating Soflet Gelcaps was to produce an easier-to-swallow coating that also provided good protection for the active ingredients," said Roger Gordon, President and CEO of Banner. "We're gratified that our coating can also serve as added security against counterfeiting and adulteration at a very modest cost."

An FDA task force report issued in October, 2003 calls for implementation of track-and-trace technologies like RFID, and suggests that redundant security measures are more effective than single measures.

### About Banner

Banner is a global gelatin-based drug delivery and specialty pharmaceutical company. With our state-of-the-art, FDA-approved manufacturing facilities and significant investment in research and development, we are committed to researching, developing and producing unique oral dosage forms for the Pharmaceutical Health Care Industry. Through our innovative technologies and products and with the dedication of our employees, we seek to improve the quality of life for our global community. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Vion N.V., Banner has operations in the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific.