

March 19, 2026



Leading Independent Proxy Advisory Firm ISS Recommends Aptose Biosciences Shareholders Vote “FOR” Proposed Plan of Arrangement with Hanmi Pharmaceutical

SAN DIEGO and TORONTO, March 19, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aptose Biosciences Inc. (“**Aptose**” or the “**Company**”) (TSX: APS; OTC: APTOF) today announced that Institutional Shareholder Services (“ISS”), a leading independent proxy advisory firm, has recommended that Aptose shareholders (“Shareholders”) vote “**FOR**” a special resolution (the “Arrangement Resolution”) to approve the previously announced arrangement (the “Arrangement”) pursuant to which Hanmi Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. (“Hanmi”) and HS North America Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hanmi (“Hanmi Purchaser” and together with Hanmi, the “Hanmi Purchasers”), will acquire all of the issued and outstanding common shares of Aptose (“Common Shares”) that are not currently owned or controlled by the Hanmi Purchasers or their respective affiliates.

In making its recommendation that Shareholders vote **FOR the Arrangement Resolution**, ISS noted:

“The offer price represents a premium to the unaffected price. In addition, the initial market reaction was positive, no other bidders have presented a superior proposal, and there has been no public opposition from non-Hanmi shareholders. The cash form of consideration provides liquidity and certainty of value to Aptose shareholders.”

ISS also recommended approval of a continuance that will result in the Company continuing from a corporation governed under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (“CBCA”) to a corporation continued under the *Business Corporations Act (Alberta)* (“ABCA”) (the “Continuance”). According to ISS, shareholder rights under the two statutes are largely similar and there would be no adverse impact on such rights on account of the Continuance.

Transaction Details

As previously disclosed in the Company’s news release dated November 19, 2025 ([here](#)), upon the completion of the Arrangement, Aptose Shareholders, other than the Hanmi Purchasers and their respective affiliates that hold any Common Shares, will receive C\$2.41 in cash per Common Share, which represents a premium of 28% over Aptose’s 30-day VWAP of C\$1.88 on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and Aptose will have continued from a corporation incorporated under the CBCA to a corporation continued under the ABCA.

Details of the Meeting

A special meeting of Shareholders to seek approval of the Arrangement and the Continuance (the "Meeting"), has been reconvened to March 31, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. (EST) (the "Reconvened Meeting"). The Reconvened Meeting will be held virtually via live audio webcast at <https://meetings.lumiconnect.com/400-581-122-608>. The Original Meeting was postponed to address comments raised by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on the Company's transaction statement on Schedule 13E-3, as amended. The record date for the Meeting was the close of business on February 24, 2026.

Aptose has prepared and filed with the SEC a definitive proxy statement for the Reconvened Meeting (the "Proxy Statement"). A copy of the Proxy Statement has been mailed to all Shareholders of the Company. The Proxy Statement, form of proxy, letter of transmittal, as well as Schedule 13E-3, as amended, will also be available for download under Aptose's profile on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca and EDGAR at www.sec.gov.

On December 12, 2025, Aptose obtained an interim order from the Court of King's Bench of Alberta (the "Court") authorizing the holding of the Meeting and matters relating to the conduct of the Meeting.

Shareholders Encouraged to Vote Ahead of the Proxy Deadline

Aptose's board of directors unanimously recommends that the shareholders vote **FOR** the special resolutions approving the Continuance and the Arrangement Resolution at the Reconvened Meeting.

The proxy voting deadline is 11:00 a.m. (Eastern time) on Friday, March 27, 2026. Shareholders are encouraged to vote well in advance of the deadline to ensure their vote is submitted in a timely manner.

All shareholders who wish to attend the Reconvened Meeting must follow the procedures set out in the Proxy Statement. Shareholders who are unable to attend the Reconvened Meeting are strongly encouraged to complete, date, sign and return the form of proxy (in the case of registered shareholders) or voting instruction form (in the case of non-registered shareholders) provided with the meeting materials so that as many shareholders as possible are represented and vote at the Reconvened Meeting.

The completion of the Transaction is subject to satisfaction of customary closing conditions, including Court approval and approval of the TSX.

Shareholder Questions & Voting Assistance

Aptose has retained Morrow Sodali (Canada) Ltd. ("Sodali & Co") to assist the Company in connection with shareholder communications and proxy solicitation. Shareholders who have questions or require voting assistance may contact Sodali & Co at:

Call Toll-Free (North America): 1-833-711-4830

Call Collect Outside North America: 1-289-695-3075

Email: assistance@investor.sodali.com

About Aptose

Aptose Biosciences Inc. is a clinical-stage biotechnology company committed to developing

precision medicines addressing unmet medical needs in oncology, with an initial focus on hematology. The Company's small molecule cancer therapeutics pipeline includes products designed to provide single agent efficacy and to enhance the efficacy of other anti-cancer therapies and regimens without overlapping toxicities. The Company's lead clinical-stage compound TUS is an oral kinase inhibitor that has demonstrated activity as a monotherapy and in combination therapy in patients with relapsed or refractory AML and is being developed as a frontline triplet therapy in newly diagnosed AML. For more information, please visit www.aptose.com.

Forward Looking Statements

This news release contains "forward-looking information" and "forward-looking statements" (collectively, "forward-looking information") within the meaning of applicable securities laws. This information includes, but is not limited to, statements concerning our objectives, our strategies to achieve those objectives, as well as statements made with respect to management's beliefs, plans, estimates, projections and intentions, and similar statements concerning anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts. In some cases, forward-looking information can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "expects", "estimates", "outlook", "forecasts", "projection", "prospects", "intends", "anticipates", "believes", or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might", "will", "will be taken", "occur" or "be achieved". In addition, any statements that refer to expectations, intentions, projections or other characterizations of future events or circumstances contain forward-looking information. Statements containing forward-looking information are not historical facts but instead represent management's expectations, estimates and projections regarding future events or circumstances. Forward-looking information in this news release include, among other things, statements relating to the Arrangement and the Continuance, the Meeting, closing conditions and various other steps to be completed in connection with the Arrangement.

Risks and uncertainties related to the transactions contemplated by the Transaction include, but are not limited to: the possibility that the Transaction will not be completed on the terms and conditions, or on the timing, currently contemplated, and that it may not be completed at all, due to a failure to obtain or satisfy, in a timely manner or otherwise, required regulatory, shareholder and Court approvals and other conditions to the completion of the Transaction or for other reasons; the risk that competing offers or acquisition proposals will be made; the negative impact that the failure to complete the Transaction for any reason could have on the price of the common shares of Aptose or on the business of Aptose; Hanmi Purchasers' failure to pay the cash consideration at completion of the Transaction; the business of Aptose may experience significant disruptions, including loss of employees due to transaction related uncertainty, industry conditions or other factors; risks relating to employee retention; the risk of regulatory changes that may materially impact the business or the operations of Aptose; risks related to the diversion of management's attention from Aptose's ongoing business operations while the Transaction is pending; and other risks and uncertainties affecting Aptose, including those described in filings and reports Aptose may make from time to time with the Canadian securities authorities. Although we have attempted to identify important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking information, there may be other risk factors not presently known to us or that we presently believe are not material that could also cause

actual results or future events to differ materially from those expressed in such forward-looking information. There can be no assurance that such information will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such information. No forward-looking statement is a guarantee of future results. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information, which speaks only as of the date made. The forward-looking information contained in this news release represents the Company's expectations as of the date of this news release (or as the date they are otherwise stated to be made) and are subject to change after such date. However, the Company disclaims any intention or obligation or undertaking to update or revise any forward-looking information whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required under applicable securities laws in Canada. All of the forward-looking information contained in this news release is expressly qualified by the foregoing cautionary statements.

This announcement is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to purchase or a solicitation of an offer to sell, or an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy, common shares of Aptose.

For further information, please contact:

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Source: Aptose Biosciences, Inc.