

IDEC PHARMACEUTICALS CORP / DE  
Form 425  
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Filed by IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
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under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Subject Company: IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
Commission File No. 0-19311

### Letter to Key Vendors/Suppliers

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

As I expect you have heard by now, we recently announced that Biogen and IDEC have agreed to a merger of our two companies. This is an enormously positive development for both companies and all who are associated with us.

Biogen and IDEC are two remarkably complementary companies. IDEC is a world leader in oncology, with a growing focus on autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. And Biogen is the mirror image, with leadership in core therapeutic areas of neurology, dermatology and rheumatology. When we bring our research, manufacturing and marketing resources together, we'll have something much greater than the sum of the parts.

Indeed, we estimate that the merger will enable both companies to accelerate their strategic plans significantly.

This will create tremendously exciting opportunities to advance our research and development projects and get new therapies into the market.

As we go through the merger process, we want to continue to work with you without interruption. We value our relationship with you, and look forward to continuing to work together in a mutually beneficial way.

We expect the merger will be completed by [date], after receipt of all necessary approvals. Additional information on the merger is available on our website, and we will keep you informed of key developments. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

NAME

### Additional Information and Where to Find It

IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation intends to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement on Form S-4 that will include a joint proxy statement/prospectus of Biogen, Inc. and IDEC and other relevant documents in connection with the proposed transaction. Investors and security holders of Biogen and IDEC are urged to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant materials when they become available because they will contain important information about IDEC, Biogen and the proposed transaction. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of these materials (when they are available) and other documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). A free copy of the joint proxy statement/prospectus (when it becomes available) may also be obtained from IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation, 3030 Callan Road, San Diego, CA 92121, Investor Relations, or from Biogen, Inc., Fourteen Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142, Investor Relations. In addition, investors and security holders may access copies of the documents filed with the SEC by IDEC on IDEC's website at [www.idecpharm.com](http://www.idecpharm.com) and investors and security holders may access copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Biogen on Biogen's website at [www.biogen.com](http://www.biogen.com). IDEC, Biogen and their respective executive officers and directors may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from their respective stockholders with respect to the proposed transaction. Information regarding the interests of these officers and directors in the proposed transaction will be included in the joint

proxy statement/prospectus.

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## QuickLinks

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