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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): December 15, 2009**

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**MEDICINOVA, INC.**

**(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)**

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**DELAWARE**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**001-33185**  
(Commission File Number)

**33-0927979**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**4350 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DRIVE, SUITE 950, SAN DIEGO, CA 92122**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (858) 373-1500**

**Not Applicable**  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On December 15, 2009, MediciNova, Inc. (“MediciNova”) and Avigen, Inc. (“Avigen”) issued a press release (the “Press Release”) confirming the previously announced deadline for Avigen stockholders to elect the merger consideration they will receive upon closing of the proposed merger of the companies. A copy of the Press Release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

*(d) Exhibits.*

99.1 PressRelease dated December 15, 2009.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, MediciNova has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**MEDICINOVA, INC.**

Date: December 15, 2009

By: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ SHINTARO ASAKO  
Name: Shintaro Asako  
Title: Chief Financial Officer



#### MEDICINOVA AND AVIGEN CONFIRM STOCKHOLDER ELECTION DEADLINE

SAN DIEGO, Calif., and ALAMEDA, Calif., December 15, 2009 — MediciNova, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that is publicly traded on the Nasdaq Global Market (Nasdaq:MNOV) and the Hercules Market of the Osaka Securities Exchange (Code Number:4875) and Avigen, Inc. (Nasdaq:AVGN), a biopharmaceutical company, confirmed today that, as previously announced, Avigen stockholders that wish to make an election with respect to the merger consideration to be received in the proposed acquisition by MediciNova of Avigen must deliver a properly completed election form to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on December 17, 2009 (the “Election Deadline”), the day of the Special Meeting of Avigen stockholders.

Avigen stockholders who hold their shares through a bank, broker or other nominee may have an election deadline earlier than the Election Deadline. These Avigen stockholders should carefully review any materials they receive from their bank, broker or other nominee to determine the election deadline applicable to them.

Under the terms of the merger agreement and as described in the joint proxy statement/ prospectus mailed to Avigen stockholders, Avigen stockholders have the right to elect to receive an amount per share in either cash, secured convertible notes to be issued by MediciNova or a combination of cash and such convertible notes. Avigen stockholders who do not make a timely election or fail to deliver a properly completed election form to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC by the Election Deadline will not be able to elect the form of merger consideration they will receive in the merger. These non-electing stockholders will receive a combination of 50% cash and 50% secured convertible notes to be issued by MediciNova.

Avigen stockholders may request copies of the election form previously mailed to record holders by calling American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC at (877) 248-6417 or (718) 921-8317. In addition, a copy of the election form may be obtained on Avigen’s website, [www.avigen.com](http://www.avigen.com). Avigen stockholders who hold their shares through a bank, broker or other nominee should contact their bank, broker or other nominee to obtain additional copies of the election forms and for instructions on how to make an election for those shares. In addition, individuals and entities contemplating the acquisition of Avigen shares should contact their bank, broker or other nominee immediately to determine how to make an election for any shares to be acquired.

As provided by the merger agreement and as described in the joint proxy statement/prospectus, Avigen’s stockholders will be entitled to one Contingent Payment Right (“CPR”) per share of Avigen common stock held in addition to the cash and/or convertible note consideration. The CPRs will entitle holders under certain circumstances to a pro rata portion of certain amounts received by Avigen after the closing of the merger.

The transaction is expected to close in December 2009 and is subject to approval of Avigen's stockholders and approval of MediciNova's stockholders as well as other customary closing conditions.

#### **About MediciNova**

MediciNova, Inc. is a publicly-traded biopharmaceutical company focused on acquiring and developing novel, small-molecule therapeutics for the treatment of diseases with unmet need with a specific focus on the U.S. market. Through strategic alliances primarily with Japanese pharmaceutical companies, MediciNova holds rights to a diversified portfolio of clinical and preclinical product candidates, each of which MediciNova believes has a well-characterized and differentiated therapeutic profile, attractive commercial potential and patent assets having claims of commercially adequate scope. MediciNova's pipeline includes six clinical-stage compounds for the treatment of acute exacerbations of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbations, multiple sclerosis, asthma, interstitial cystitis, solid tumor cancers, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, preterm labor and urinary incontinence and two preclinical-stage compounds for the treatment of thrombotic disorders. MediciNova's current strategy is to focus its resources on its two prioritized product candidates, MN-221 for the treatment of acute exacerbations of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbations and MN-166 for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, and either pursue development independently in the United States, in the case of MN-221, or establish a strategic collaboration to support further development, in the case of MN-166. MediciNova will seek to monetize its other product candidates at key value inflection points. For more information on MediciNova, Inc., please visit [www.medicinova.com](http://www.medicinova.com).

#### **About Avigen**

Avigen is a biopharmaceutical company that has focused on identifying and developing differentiated products to treat patients with serious neurological and other disorders. For more information about Avigen, consult the company's website at [www.avigen.com](http://www.avigen.com).

#### **Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act**

The statements in this press release relating to the merger contain forward-looking statements. Such forward looking statements include the expected timing of closing the merger, statements about the consideration to be received by Avigen stockholders in the transaction and other statements that are not historical facts. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in these forward-looking statements, including the risk that the merger will not close as expected, or at all, due to the failure of satisfaction of all of the closing conditions, including the receipt of the requisite stockholder approvals from the stockholders of each company. These risks and uncertainties are detailed in the joint proxy statement/prospectus mailed to stockholders of Avigen and MediciNova and in Amendment No. 3 to Registration Statement on Form S-4 filed by MediciNova with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in each case under the caption "Risk Factors."

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CONTACT: Avigen, Inc.  
Andrew Sauter, Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Financial Officer  
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