

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Colleen Lindsay, Asst. Director of Publicity, Ballantine Books  
(212) 782-8282 or [clindsay@randomhouse.com](mailto:clindsay@randomhouse.com)

## **DEL REY CELEBRATES ONE MILLIONTH MANGA IN PRINT!**

(*New York, April 19, 2005*)—Del Rey Books, an imprint of The Random House Publishing Group, announced today that it has surpassed a million copies of its manga in print in less than a year since the line's debut. The March 28<sup>th</sup> release of Ken Akamatsu's *Negima, Volume 5* (#1 on the Bookscan graphic novel list for the week ending April 3) sent Del Rey over the million-copy mark.

Del Rey Manga launched its line in conjunction with Japanese manga powerhouse Kodansha in May 2004. With just six series in print since the launch, Del Rey has established itself as a strong force in its first year of publishing in the manga field. Selected by industry newsletter ICv2 as the "Top New Manga Publisher of the Year" for 2004, Del Rey Manga has come a long way in a short time.

"The best is yet to come," commented Dallas Middaugh, Director of Manga for Del Rey Books. "Our policy of controlled growth has paid off in a big way, and as we continue to add new series, we know that fans and retailers are as excited about them as we are. And it's only going to get better from here!"

The Del Rey program will grow to at least fourteen series in 2005. In addition to *Negima*, its current series include *Tsubasa* and *xxxHOLiC* by CLAMP; *Gundam SEED* by Masatsugu Iwase, Hajime Yatate and Yoshiyuki Tomino; *The Wallflower* by Tomoko Hayakawa; and *Othello* by Satomi Ikezawa. The next two series to launch are *Genshiken* by Kio Shimoku and *Nodame Cantabile* by Tomoko Ninomaya, both on sale April 26.

### **About Del Rey Books:**

Del Rey Books (<http://www.delreybooks.com>), a division of Ballantine Books, was founded in 1977 as a division of Ballantine Books under the guidance of the renowned Judy-Lynn del Rey and her husband, Lester del Rey. Del Rey publishes the best of modern fantasy, science fiction, manga, and alternate history in hardcover, paperback, and now e-book formats. Ballantine Books is part of the Random House Publishing Group, a publishing group of Random House, Inc, the U.S. publishing company of Random House, the trade book publishing division of Bertelsmann AG, one of the world's leading international media companies.

### **About Kodansha Ltd., Publishers:**

Kodansha is the largest trade book publisher in Japan. Founded in 1909, the company by virtue of its long history, the quality of its publishing, and its established network of sales and marketing is regarded as the trade book market leader in the publishing business in Japan. Moreover, Kodansha has been recognized as the leading publisher with a mission to introduce Japan through its publishing business.