

Cerep appoints Vice-President of Technology development and Director of External operations for combinatorial chemistry

Paris, France, 29 January 1999- Cerep S.A. (Nouveau Marché: CEREP), the French drug discovery Company, today announced the appointments of Michael Entzeroth, PhD, as Vice President of Technology Development, effective April 6th 1999, and Brian Fulton, PhD, as Director of External Operations for Combinatorial Chemistry.

The creation of this position, together with that of VP, Drug Discovery (appointed in November), was announced last year as part of Cerep's reorganisation of its research operations.

As VP Technology Development, Dr Entzeroth will be responsible for the further development of Cerep's technology platform and will play a key role in ensuring that the Company maintains its competitive advantages, in such key areas as high throughput profiling, high throughput screening, high throughput lead development, data management and virtual screening.

Dr Entzeroth brings to Cerep more than 12 years of industrial research and development experience acquired in the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, Dr Entzeroth was the Head of the International Group for Screening Co-ordination at Boehringer Ingelheim, responsible for the development, implementation and integration of new technologies for drug discovery. During the same period he held the position of Head of Unit for Screening and Data Management at Dr. Karl Thomae GmbH, Biberach, Germany, a fully owned subsidiary of Boehringer Ingelheim. Dr Entzeroth's career began in 1985 at Dr. Karl Thomae GmbH as Preclinical Project Team Leader for various research activities. He gained his PhD in Biochemistry from University of Cologne, Germany.

Dr Fulton will be responsible for managing corporate partnerships based on Cerep's combinatorial chemistry expertise. Dr Fulton holds a PhD in Organic Chemistry from Iowa State University, USA. After completing a research fellowship at Harvard Medical School, he started his career at MacroChem Corporation as a senior chemist, and then became a senior scientist at Spectra Science Corporation until 1994. Since this time he has held a number of positions at Arquele Inc., most recently as Director of Lead Optimisation.

Thierry Jean, Chief Executive of Cerep S.A., said "The expansion of Cerep's management team reflects the Company's efforts in addressing the challenging issues that face the pharmaceutical industry in drug discovery. Dr Entzeroth has unique experience in the field of technology development and his understanding of the industry's needs will ensure Cerep maintains the competitive advantages of its highly developed and fully integrated drug discovery platform. Similarly, Dr Fulton's extensive experience in combinatorial chemistry adds further strength to our position. Virtually all pharmaceutical companies now rely on combinatorial chemistry in order to secure a sustainable stream of drug candidates. This position reinforces Cerep's intention to further develop this branch of its activities to a leadership position."

Cerep is a biotechnology company whose goal is to "bring intelligence to drug discovery" by developing technologies and tools that decrease the attrition rate of compounds at pre-clinical and clinical development stages. Cerep has developed an extensive R&D capacity in Europe and North America in the areas of high-throughput profiling, lead development and screening, high-throughput organic synthesis and computational chemistry. The Company has a unique business model combining highly profitable fee-for-service activities with long term collaborations in drug discovery. As part of its strategy, Cerep uses its fee-for-service activities to validate key parameters such as throughput, data quality and management along with scientific tool robustness and reliability for all major technology components of its drug discovery platform. Cerep signed its first corporate alliance with the pharmaceutical company, Sanofi, in December 1997.

Statements included in this press release which are not historical in nature are intended to be, and are hereby identified as, "forward-looking statements" for purposes of the safe harbour provided by Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements may be identified by words including "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "expects" and similar expressions. The company cautions readers that forward-looking statements, including without limitation those relating to the company's future operations and business prospects, are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Factors that may affect future operations and business prospects include, but are not limited to, clinical and scientific results and developments concerning corporate collaborations and the company's proprietary rights and other factors described in the prospectus relating to the company's recent public offering.