

## Cerep and Sanofi expand Drug discovery collaboration

**Paris, France, 20 February 1999** – Cerep S.A. (Nouveau Marché: CEREP) today announced that Sanofi, the French pharmaceutical company, has expanded the original research and development collaboration it signed with Cerep in 1997 to include the screening of two additional targets using Cerep's proprietary integrated drug discovery technology platform. Cerep will receive additional research funds based on Sanofi's commitment to double its annual R&D funding.

Cerep and Sanofi initiated their collaboration on the discovery and development of chemical compounds for a number of therapeutic targets in December 1997. The collaboration is divided into two stages. In the first stage, Cerep is designing and producing a private library of chemical compounds to be used by Sanofi in its in-house research and development programs. As part of the second stage, the companies will jointly pursue discovery and optimisation programs using Cerep's highly integrated platform technology. At the time of Cerep's initial public offering in February 1998, Sanofi committed FF 22.5 million in research funding as part of an equity stake in Cerep.

Commenting on the news, Thierry Jean, Chief Executive of Cerep, noted, "We have had a longstanding relationship with Sanofi that started in 1990 on bases on the basis of providing profiling services which has then progressively expanded to encompass all of Cerep's integrated drug discovery technologies. In effect, Sanofi will be our first partner to fully benefit from our HTLD (High Throughput Lead Development) capabilities," Dr Jean added, "I believe that this collaboration is a clear validation of our business strategy which focuses on leveraging Cerep's core assets in screening, profiling, chemistry and chemo-informatics in order to move short term partnerships into multi-year royalty and milestone collaborations."

"The expansion of this collaboration with Cerep reflects the continued scientific progress that is being made between the two companies," said Gérard Le Fur, Head of Research and Development at Sanofi. "The positive working relationship that has been developed over the years with Cerep is tantamount to reaching the goal of the collaboration for optimising drug targets in the coming years."

*Cerep is a drug discovery company that focuses on finding new and effective drugs. The Company's mission is to develop integrated technologies and tools to overcome the current obstacles and challenges of the drug discovery process. Cerep assists pharmaceutical companies by incorporating all the facets of innovative technologies for the discovery of novel and effective drugs. In Europe and North America, the Company has developed an extensive R&D capacity in the areas of high-throughput profiling, lead development and screening, high-throughput organic synthesis and computational chemistry. Cerep has a unique business model combining revenue generating drug discovery services with strategic collaborations in drug discovery.*

*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.*