

## Cerep joins Phase II of Combinatorial chemistry consortium

**Paris, France, 24 September 1999** – Cerep (Nouveau Marché: CEREP) the French drug discovery company announced that it has renewed its commitment to the Combinatorial Chemistry Consortium. The second phase of this partnership which was founded in 1996 by Molecular Simulations Inc, a subsidiary of Pharmacoepia, Inc. is to be launched in Paris on the 27 September 1999.

This consortium is the leading commercial research project dedicated to the development, validation, and application of combinatorial library design and focusing software to solve industry relevant problems. The consortium brings together leading companies such as ArQule, Pharmacia & Upjohn, Monsanto, Boehringer Ingelheim, Teijin, and Pfizer to focus on the various aspects of rational drug design.

"The innovation and integration of our core technologies will continue through such close collaborations." said Thierry Jean, President and CEO of Cerep.

The consortium has contributed significantly to the development of Cerep's focusing software. This computer simulation tool is a new paradigm in drug discovery that is designed to generate information-rich data capable of developing focused libraries of pharmacophorically related compounds.

"The synergy resulting from the combination of our focusing software and our recently launched BioPrint™ database allows Cerep to devise and develop focused libraries at the very initial stage of the drug discovery program. This approach determines which compounds identified in high throughput screens have the most promising drug profile." said Dr Jean.

"Cerep is always actively contributing to the development of new technologies in our consortium" said François Delfaud, Manager of MSI, France.

"By supporting successful partnership programs such as this Consortium, MSI continues to provide innovative software solutions for industry-relevant problems in combinatorial chemistry and other research areas." said Saïd Zarrabian, President and CEO of MSI.

*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.*

