

Cerep announces drug discovery service contract with Solvay

Rueil-Malmaison, France, August 28, 2000 - Cerep SA today announced a three year drug discovery collaboration with Solvay Pharmaceuticals. Under terms of the worldwide collaboration, Solvay will use all elements of Cerep's technology platform for optimization and selection of drug candidates. Cerep will provide its High Throughput Screening and Profiling as well as chemistry, molecular modeling and pharmaco-informatics services. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Thierry Jean, President and CEO of Cerep said "This contract highlights the robust nature of Cerep's technology and Cerep's ability to tailor both the scientific and financial aspects of a project to a client's specification. We have built our business around the ability of our profitable fee-for-service activities to provide current cash-flow while growing our internal research and development projects and collaborative efforts which aim for longer term revenue sources. We consider the Solvay contract to be evidence that Cerep provides a wide range of technologies which are very competitive with those available to even large pharmaceutical companies. We are gratified to have earned this competitive contract from a recognized industry leader."

Prof. Siegfried Schäfer, VP Research worldwide of Solvay Pharmaceuticals remarked "We are happy to have concluded this agreement with Cerep. Solvay Pharmaceuticals expects Cerep's experience and technologies to bring significant value to our research programs."

About Cerep

Cerep's mission is to optimize the drug discovery process. Cerep provides solutions to the pharmaceutical industry allowing faster and more cost effective drug discovery by identifying at early stages compounds that will fail in development. Cerep's integrated platform encompasses a complete range of technologies including chemistry, biology, and informatics.

Cerep provides its technologies to more than 130 pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies worldwide including most of the top pharmaceutical firms. Cerep has signed several strategic alliances for drug discovery with leading pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sanofi-Synthelabo and Aventis CropScience.

The company was introduced on the Nouveau Marché on 18 February 1998 (Sicovam code: 6179).

About Solvay

Founded in 1863, Solvay is an international chemical and pharmaceutical Group, headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The Solvay Group's activities are organized into four sectors : Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Plastics and Processing. It operates through more than 350 companies spread over 50 countries, employing more than 30,000 people.