

## Cerep Announces Four Collaborative Agreements in Combinatorial and Medicinal Chemistry

**Rueil-Malmaison, January 11, 2001** - Cerep (Nouveau Marché, CEREP) announced today the signature of contracts with four pharmaceutical companies Grünenthal, a privately held German company; the French company Laboratoires Fournier, the Italian Zambon, and a fourth European company. Financial terms of the agreements were not disclosed.

The four companies chose Cerep for its expertise in combinatorial chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and chemo-informatics.

In the course of the two-year agreements, the four pharmaceutical companies will collectively furnish Cerep with certain information that will be used and analyzed by Cerep with the goal of synthesizing libraries of diverse and optimally purified molecules. The synthesized products will meet physical-chemical criteria increasing their chance of becoming drug candidates. The pharmaceutical companies will receive several tens of thousands of molecules and payments will be made upon the delivery of each library. The synthesis will be performed over the next eighteen months ; resynthesis of compounds may also be performed over the next two years.

Frédéric Revah, Vice President Drug Discovery at Cerep commented, "The signature of these agreements which form a consortium demonstrates the maturity of our chemistry and validates our strategy for the production of high quality molecules by integrating combinatorial chemistry, medicinal chemistry and chemo-informatics".

"We chose Cerep as much for its ability to offer innovative and competitive chemistry as for its professionalism and its flexibility" added François Bellamy, Director of Drug Discovery at Fournier, the initiator for the agreements with the four European pharmaceutical companies.

Max Fehlmann, Pharma R&D Director of Zambon Group, said "This important agreement will strengthen our Drug Discovery process and will further speed up our commitment to provide innovative medicines in the fields of Woman Care, Dermatology and Lung diseases".

### **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 the 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).*

*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 harbor 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.*

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