

Cerep announces a Drug discovery agreement with Roche

Rueil-Malmaison, February 7, 2001 - Cerep (Nouveau Marché, CEREP) today announces the signature of a three year drug discovery partnership with Roche (Basel, Switzerland).

Under the terms of the worldwide agreement, Roche will utilize Cerep's proprietary drug discovery platform for the identification and selection of drug candidates developed in its pharmaceutical division. Roche will use Cerep's pharmacological and pharmaceutical screening and profiling capabilities as well as its general pharmacology services for pre-clinical optimisation on a fee-for-service basis.

Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

"We are pleased to reinforce the credibility of our platform and our one-stop shop strategy with the signature of this long term agreement with a major healthcare company", commented Thierry Jean, President and CEO of Cerep.

"We are very enthusiastic about this opportunity to extend and enhance our relationship with Cerep" added Dr. Brad Bolzon, Global Head of Alliances and Licensing, Global Pharma Research, Roche.

During the year 2000, Cerep provided its technological services to more than 160 pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies, thus adding 30 companies to its existing partnerships.

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 the most promising drug candidates as well as eliminating those compounds likely to 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 160 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 as well as multi-year service contracts with such companies as Pfizer and Solvay.

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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