

Cerep announces a drug discovery agreement with Aventis

Rueil-Malmaison, June 13, 2001

Cerep (Nouveau Marché, Cerep) today announces the signature of a three year drug discovery partnership with Aventis (Frankfurt, Germany).

Under the terms of the global agreement, Aventis will utilize on a non-exclusive basis Cerep's proprietary drug discovery platform in its pre-clinical research process generating novel, advanced candidates for drug development. On a fee-for-service basis, Cerep will provide Aventis with access to its technologies in pharmacological and pharmaceutical screening, to its profiling as well as to its general pharmacology services for pre-clinical drug optimisation.

Financial terms of the agreement are not disclosed.

«With Aventis, a major player in pharmaceutical industry has expressed its confidence in the potential of Cerep's integrated drug discovery platform. Cerep was formally a research services provider for Rhone Poulenc Rorer before their merger with Hoechst-Marion-Roussel and we are very pleased by the recognition of our expertise by new formed company Aventis» stated Thierry Jean, President and CEO of 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.

Aventis Pharma AG is the pharmaceutical company of Aventis. Aventis Pharma is dedicated to treating and preventing human disease through the discovery, development, manufacture and sale of innovative pharmaceutical products aimed at satisfying unmet medical needs. Aventis Pharma focuses on important therapeutic areas such as cardiology, oncology, infectious diseases, arthritis, allergies and respiratory disorders, diabetes and the central nervous system disorders. Aventis Pharma has its corporate headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. Aventis Pharma encompasses Aventis Pasteur, a world leader in vaccines based in Lyon, France, and Aventis Behring, a world leader in therapeutic proteins headquartered in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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 company's Document de référence.

Contacts

Cerep

Thierry Jean, President and CEO

Michael Entzeroth, Vice-President Technology Development

Tel: +33 (0)1 55 94 84 00 - fincom@cerep.com