

Cerep signs a scientific collaborative agreement with Aventis Pharma

Rueil-Malmaison, France, November 12, 2001

Cerep (Nouveau Marché : CEREP) today announced the signature of a scientific collaborative agreement with Aventis Pharma. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Under the terms of the agreement Cerep will provide Aventis Pharma with resources in medicinal chemistry on a fee for service basis. The research program essentially consists in optimizing pharmaceutical molecules that are protein-kinase inhibitors, according to scientific criteria jointly defined by Aventis Pharma and Cerep. In the course of the collaboration, Aventis will benefit from Cerep's know-how in medicinal chemistry, its expertise in lead optimization and its parallel synthesis capacities.

"The signature of this partnership demonstrates the quality of our chemistry which combines innovative technologies such as our molecular modeling platform with the expertise of our medicinal chemists" commented Frédéric Revah, Chief Scientific Officer 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 170 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-Synthélabo and Aventis CropScience as well as multi-year service contracts with such companies as Pfizer and Solvay.

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.

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