

Cerep and Sanofi-Synthélabo sign two research service agreements

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Cerep (Nouveau Marché: CEREP) and Sanofi-Synthélabo have signed two new research service agreements, the first for the production of a compound library using Cerep's combinatorial chemistry platform, and the second to provide Sanofi-Synthélabo access to Cerep's high-throughput profiling technology.

The chemical library contains several thousand compounds and combines monomers from both companies. The library is designed by Cerep and Sanofi-Synthélabo on a collaborative basis and will be synthesized by Cerep. All the compounds will be analyzed to ensure that they adhere to the high level of purity required by the contract.

Cerep's high-throughput profiling technology will be used to determine the pharmacological (potential side-effects) and pharmaceutical parameters (bio-availability and potential toxicity) of the compounds produced by Sanofi-Synthélabo's internal research programs. The results will enable Sanofi-Synthélabo to rationalize its optimization process for drug candidates.

"At a time when collaborations between pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies are becoming more selective, we are pleased to confirm the excellent relationship we have with Sanofi-Synthélabo," remarked Thierry Jean, Chief Executive Office of Cerep. *"We have shown, yet again, that our technology platform is adapted to the needs of the pharmaceutical industry. These agreements show that it is possible to combine both service and strategic collaborations¹ with the same partner."*

¹ As a reminder: On 28th January 2002, Cerep announced an extension to its drug discovery collaboration initiated with Sanofi-Synthélabo in December 1997.

Cerep's mission is to build a pipeline of drug candidates aimed to be licensed out at the beginning of clinical phases. The drug discovery effort is financed through profitable fee for services activities.

Cerep provides solutions allowing faster and 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's technologies benefit to more than 200 pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies worldwide including most of the top pharmaceutical firms.

Cerep's drugs pipeline includes collaborative drug candidates developed with Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sanofi-Synthélabo and Sepracor, as well as products discovered on its own.

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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