

## Cerep anticipates historic operating profit in 2002

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2002 will be another major growth year for Cerep, largely due to the good performance in the service activities (up around 25%), and contracts covering all or part of BioPrint<sup>®</sup>, such as the BioPrint<sup>®</sup>-based collaboration agreement with Roche announced in October.

In this context, and despite a particularly difficult economic environment, sales for 2002 are expected to exceed € 34 million. This figure includes revenue generated by a new BioPrint<sup>®</sup> agreement in course of finalization, but excludes the impact of other important agreements currently under discussion and more likely to be concluded in 2003.

Sales growth in 2002 will be accompanied by a strong increase in operating income, likely to exceed 10% of year-end sales.

As emphasized by Thierry Jean, Cerep Chairman and CEO, *"The historic profit we anticipate for 2002 is founded on the yield from both service and BioPrint<sup>®</sup> marketing activities. This will ensure the continued implementation of our long-term growth strategy based on internal financing of our drug discovery programs. We are also particularly gratified by the return obtained from our considerable investment in the development of BioPrint<sup>®</sup> in recent years."*

*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 drug 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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