

Cerep and Sanofi-Synthélabo expand their drug discovery collaboration

Rueil-Malmaison, France, January 28, 2002

Cerep (Nouveau Marché: CEREP) today announced the expansion of the drug discovery agreement signed with Sanofi-Synthélabo.

Under the terms of the amendment concluded for year 2002, Sanofi-Synthélabo and Cerep decided to focus and pursue discovery efforts on two of the more advanced programs and, in addition, to initiate high throughput screening and lead optimization on two novel targets of therapeutic interest.

As part of the agreement signed in December 1997 and its recent amendment, Sanofi-Synthélabo agreed to pay Cerep research funding and milestones payments at key compounds development steps. Cerep will also receive royalties when compounds resulting from the drug discovery collaboration reach the market.

"We are particularly delighted that Sanofi-Synthélabo reasserted its confidence in our company by expanding the collaboration. In addition to the validation of our drug discovery approach, this is a clear assessment of the scientific level of our team" commented Thierry Jean, Chairman 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 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 companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Sanofi-Synthélabo and Sepracor.

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.

Contact

Cerep

Thierry Jean, President and CEO

Frédéric Revah, Chief Scientific Officer

Tel: +33 (0)1 55 94 84 00

fincom@cerep.fr

Euroclear France Code : 6179 – Nouveau Marché