

Lilly renews and expands the major profiling agreement signed with Cerep for 2004

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Cerep announces the renewal and significant expansion of the major scientific agreement signed with Eli Lilly and Company in 2003. Under the terms of the agreement, Lilly and Cerep will expand an intensive profiling program to define the chemical space that is most suitable for use in discovering lead compounds active against important target classes. Lilly will continue to utilize Cerep's extensive experience in high throughput compound profiling to enhance the fundamental understanding of the relationships between chemical structure and biological activity. Financial terms are not disclosed.

Lilly and Cerep originally entered into this collaboration in 2003 for one year as a proof of concept. The renewal and expansion of this agreement in 2004 validates the application of large scale profiling in early drug discovery, pioneered by Cerep through its BioPrint® approach. It also illustrates the quality of Cerep's services in data generation and data management.

"We are very proud of this recognition by one of the most innovative pharmaceutical companies" commented Mark Crawford, Executive VP Business Development at Cerep. "The collaboration with Lilly is representative of an emerging strategy of pharmaceutical firms to acquire large datasets of high quality in vitro data to support fundamental knowledge building. Cerep technologies are well suited to support these efforts."

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 service 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.

With the acquisition of Hesperion, finalized in February 2004, the Group adds Clinical development services to its platform.

Cerep's technologies benefit to more than 290 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 and Sanofi-Synthelabo, 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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