

Cerep and Servier enter collaboration agreements for drug discovery and lead optimization

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Cerep, the leading drug discovery service company and Servier, France's largest privately-owned pharmaceutical company announce the signing of three new collaboration agreements.

The first two research agreements provide that Cerep will apply its know-how and technologies in high-throughput screening and medicinal chemistry to identify new molecules active on targets selected by Servier. In the first program, Cerep will screen its proprietary chemical compound library and will perform lead optimization of hits identified through the screening. The second program consists of a large screening of Cerep's library to identify hits to be transferred to Servier for further optimization.

According to the terms of the third agreement, Cerep will apply BioPrint® tools to characterize drug candidates selected by Servier in order to identify those with the best chances of success in clinical development. Cerep will be paid on the basis of the number of analysis performed for its partner.

Financial terms are not disclosed.

Thierry Jean, CEO of Cerep commented: « *We are delighted to extend and strengthen our partnership with Servier, an internationally recognized pharmaceutical company. Servier has been our first customer, at the time of Cerep's creation in 1990, and we have since been well positioned to benefit from its scientific expertise. We are particularly proud to have been selected for these new programs. The extension of our relationship with Servier to chemistry and the use of BioPrint® illustrate the progress of Cerep all along these past 16 years.* »

Laurent Perret, President Research and Development, Servier, commented: « *These agreements are part of the historical partnership between the two companies, initiated more than 15 years ago, and illustrate the supportive commitment of Servier for biotechnology companies in France, such as Cerep.* »

Emmanuel Canet, Vice-President Research and Development, Servier, commented: « *This alliance illustrates the quality of the relationship that we always maintained with Cerep. We are very happy to link the R&D efforts of both companies and to have access to BioPrint® for the selection and optimization of our future medicines.* »

Contacts

Thierry Jean,
Chairman & CEO

Frédéric Revah,
Chief scientific Officer

Tel. +33 (0)1 45 64 44 60

Servier is the largest privately-owned pharmaceutical company in France. It is the third ranked French drug group worldwide. Servier was established in 1954 by its founder and current Chairman, Jacques Servier, MD. The Servier Group is active in 140 countries through more than 70 subsidiaries. Its main therapeutic areas are cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, neuropsychiatric disorders, and bone and joint diseases. Servier, has obtained regulatory approval for over 30 medicines originating from its own research over the past 30 years.

Cerep's mission is to provide pharmaceutical companies with high quality services in drug discovery and drug development as well as drug candidates at different preclinical and clinical stages. 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 360 pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies worldwide including most of the top pharmaceutical firms. Cerep's drug pipeline includes collaborative drug candidates developed with Sanofi-Aventis and Bristol-Myers Squibb (with two compounds in clinical trials for immuno-inflammatory disorders), as well as products discovered on its own (including one compound in phase I/II clinical trial in the field of cancer). Cerep's development strategy aims at self-financing its research.

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.

Code ISIN FR0004042232
Euronext Paris
Eurolist - Local Securities

Cerep SA
155 boulevard Haussmann
75008 Paris
France
tel + 33(0)1 45 64 44 60
fax +33(0)1 45 64 44 64
e-mail: fincom@cerep.fr
www.cerep.com