

Joint Service Offering of Proteros biostructures GmbH and Mercachem B.V.

- Services Range from Fragment Based Discovery to Structure Guided Lead Generation -

Munich & Nijmegen, June 23rd, 2008 - Germany. Proteros biostructures GmbH and Mercachem Holding B.V. today announced that they have signed an agreement for a joint offering to the life science industry. The joint offering will cover fragment based discovery, fragment evolution, hit-to-lead generation, lead optimisation and the preparation of pre-clinical development candidates.

Proteros' unique expertise in structure elucidation of proteins and protein-ligand complexes combined with Mercachem's proven track record in hit and lead generation provides customers with a highly efficient, structure guided discovery support. Both companies have recently expanded their service portfolio, Proteros by the implementation of designer fragment libraries and compound kinetics screening and Mercachem by integrating proven medicinal chemistry expertise from former Altana Pharma. Both expansions will be fully leveraged in this joint offering in order to provide proprietary compounds at any stage of the discovery process to their customers on a complete service basis.

"The knowledge about the precise molecular interface between target and compound is extremely valuable in our process to provide proprietary drug candidates to our customers", says Frank Leemhuis, Managing Director of Mercachem, "and we believe that Proteros and Mercachem with their respective platforms, know-how and track record in the service business are ideally suited to fully exploit this unique combination of core competencies." Torsten Neufeind, CEO of Proteros biostructures, adds: "In addition, together we are in the most favourable position to exploit the huge potential of fragment based lead discovery and subsequent optimization through our unmatched structure elucidation technologies and chemical design & synthesis know-how for the generation, build-up and application of unique fragment libraries." The joint offering will be supported by a professional project management and joint steering committees with clear underlying responsibilities.

About Proteros biostructures GmbH

Proteros biostructures is a privately held company that offers services and products for X-ray structure analysis and the production of proteins to the global life science industry. Proteros accelerates and optimizes structure analysis and structure-based drug discovery through its expertise and unique technologies, such as the Free Mounting System™ (FMS™) and the Picodropper™. Proteros' collection of Gallery Structures, a catalogue of established drug targets, provides the means to generate protein-ligand structures within

a few weeks, realizing a significant time and cost advantage for its clients. More information on Proteros can be found in the company's website at www.proteros.com.

About Mercachem Holding B.V.

Mercachem is a privately owned, independent contract research organization offering state-of-the-art organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry and process R&D services to accelerate the drug discovery and development process in a flexible and cost-effective way. Mercachem was founded in 1997 and employs 105 people. The company is located in Nijmegen, The Netherlands and moved to a brand-new laboratory facility of 3000m² in 2006.

Working for major pharmaceutical and biotech companies in the world, Mercachem is recognized for its high quality products and services and its fast problem-solving capabilities. More information on Mercachem can be found on the company website (www.mercachem.com).

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