



## **Dompé pha.r.ma and NiKem Research srl Enter Into an Extensive Research Service Agreement**

*L'Aquila and Baranzate, Milan, September 22th, 2006* – Dompé pha.r.ma and NiKem Research Srl announced today that the two companies have signed a Research Service Agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, NiKem will, in the next 24 months, use its medicinal & combinatorial chemistry platform and expertise to design and synthesize targeted arrays aimed towards specific G-protein-coupled receptors of interest for Dompé. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

By pursuing this business opportunity with NiKem Research, Dompé pha.r.ma gains access to key knowledge and technologies for the fast identification and optimization of meaningful leads. By pursuing this business opportunity with Dompé Pha.r.ma, NiKem Research further diversifies it's EU and US client portfolio, now comprising both large pharmaceutical corporations, small biotechs and a number of medium sized companies.

Gaetano Clavenna, President of Dompé pha.r.ma, commented, "The collaboration with NiKem represents a key step forward in our research programs in the area of allosteric GPCR modulators that surely represents a primary focus for our group. The strong expertise of NiKem in the field of combinatorial chemistry and fast lead optimization extraordinarily fits with Dompé pha.r.ma competences and we have great expectations for the results of these collaborative programs".

Carlo Farina, Managing Director of NiKem Research, said "The collaboration with Dompé provides additional industrial validation to NiKem's portfolio of high quality drug discovery services, and focuses us towards long-lasting strategic business relationships with internationally recognized players. Following an outstanding growth since 2001, which culminated into a 45% volume increase for our revenues in 2005 vs. 2004 , a positive trend has materialized also for 2006. These impressive results will allow NiKem to adapt and increase its service proposition, and to eventually add even more value to our clients' projects."

Pierfausto Seneci, CBO of NiKem, said, "We are excited to enlarge our Italian and European client portfolio by adding a highly recognized player like Dompé and we eagerly look forward to exceeding their high expectations. Dompé's success has become our own, and we intend to significantly contribute to its achievement."

### **About Dompé pha.r.ma**

Dompé pha.r.ma operates a state-of-the-art research and manufacturing centre at L'Aquila, Italy, with advanced research laboratories and internationally validated production and biotechnology facilities. To this aim, R&D is committed to the discovery and clinical development of innovative drugs mainly focused in Immunology and Oncology areas.

The most advanced programs led to the identification of a novel class of non-competitive allosteric modulators of the chemokine receptors CXCR1 and CXCR2 and Reparixin, the first

candidate drug selected in this program, is currently undergoing Phase II clinical studies for the prevention of reperfusion-induced organ damage in kidney and lung transplantation.

For further information visit [www.dompe.it](http://www.dompe.it)

### **About NiKem Research**

Based on decades of drug discovery experience and now operating at biotech speed, NiKem Research offers a full range of medicinal and parallel chemistry services and partnering opportunities to the pharmaceutical industry. In addition to its expertise in hit validation and lead optimization, NiKem Research provides its clients with the synthesis of specifically-designed custom arrays, Explora ADMET services, biochemical screening and in vivo DMPK. NiKem Research may operate either as a classical fee-for-service partner, or as a co-developer in risk-sharing projects with biology-oriented biotechs having innovative early drug discovery opportunities.

NiKem Research is also progressing a pipeline of IP protected discovery programs in CNS and oncology. Two of these projects have already generated preclinical development candidates which are expected to enter Phase I clinical development in 2007. For further information visit [www.nikemresearch.com](http://www.nikemresearch.com)

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