



Servier and NiKem Research Srl Enter into a Discovery Research Service Agreement

Paris and Milan, October 15th, 2007 – Servier, the leading French independent pharmaceutical company, and NiKem Research Srl, one of the leading Italian drug discovery service providers, announced today the signature of a Discovery Research Service Agreement. Under the terms of the agreement NiKem will, in the next 12 months, use its medicinal chemistry experience, and its iterative and parallel chemistry platform, to design and synthesize drug-like kinase inhibitors aimed towards specific, undisclosed targets of interest for Servier. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Emmanuel Canet, Head of Research of Servier, said "We are pleased to start this collaboration with NiKem Research which will boost our research efforts in fields identified as crucial for the future of our company. We are confident that NiKem expertise in medicinal chemistry and parallel synthesis will allow us to identify quickly a compound satisfying all the requisites needed to transform a lead molecule into a drug candidate".

Giuseppe Giardina, CEO of NiKem Research, said "We believe that a partnership with Servier will allow us to use at best our extensive competence and tools for the discovery and optimization of potent, selective and drug-like candidates. In fact, we were impressed since the start of our discussion with Servier by the knowledge of the pharmaceutical market of their representatives; by the motivation and the competence of their scientists; and by the team-oriented attitude shown in both the scientific and the business meetings. These features are also key descriptors of NiKem, and in our opinion this ensures a high probability of success to the collaboration."

Pierfausto Seneci, CBO of NiKem Research, said, "We are delighted to start a multi-FTE business relationship with Servier. By establishing this partnership with Servier, NiKem Research further expands its presence in Europe in general, and in France in particular, and adds another renowned major pharmaceutical player to its list of partners. The long standing attitude of Servier in heavily investing in R&D, and in carefully picking the most valuable partners for their high quality projects, represents an excellent validation of our cost-effective and value-oriented drug discovery platform."

About Servier

Servier is the leading independent French pharmaceutical company, established in 1954 by its founder, Jacques Servier, M.D., Pharm.D. The group is established in 140 countries and 82% of Servier products are prescribed out of France. Sales turnover in 2006 rose to 3.3 billion euros. Almost 25% of Servier's turnover is invested in Research and Development. The Servier Group counts 19 International Centers of Therapeutic Research, and its principal therapeutic research orientations are cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, neuropsychiatric disorders, cancer, and osteoarticular diseases. More information is available at: www.servier.com.

About NiKem Research

Based on decades of drug discovery experience and now operating at biotech speed, NiKem Research offers a full range of drug discovery services to the pharmaceutical industry. In addition to its expertise in medicinal chemistry (hit validation, hit to lead and lead optimization, iterative and parallel synthesis), NiKem Research provides its clients with computational and analytical chemistry support, early ADMET services, biochemical screening and in vivo DMPK. NiKem Research usually operates as a classical fee-for-service partner, but other business relationships (i.e., project- or assay-based) are also acceptable. For further information visit www.nikemresearch.com

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