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NiKem Research Srl appoints Roderick Alan Porter PhD as Director Business Development

Milan - February 23rd, 2009 - NiKem Research Srl, a high quality service provider in the Drug Discovery arena, offering a full range of medicinal, computational and analytical chemistry, biochemical pharmacology, early ADMET and in vivo PK services has appointed today Roderick Alan Porter as Director Business Development.

Rod Porter has 25 years experience working in big pharma (Searle – SK&F - SmithKline Beecham - GlaxoSmithKline) as a medicinal chemist across a wide range of therapeutic areas and molecular targets; over the past 16 years his work has been directed to CNS targets. He has extensive experience of addressing ADMET and PK issues and successfully progressing compounds into preclinical and clinical development. He led several lead optimization projects for more than 15 years and a multidisciplinary blood brain barrier working group to increase understanding of effective drug distribution to the brain. His leadership roles led him to numerous interactions with academic, industrial biotech groups, including successful due diligence activity, and various CROs. Overall, Rod is author of more than 40 publications in peer reviewed International journals and 75 patents in the drug discovery area.

Welcoming Dr. Porter to the Company, Giuseppe Giardina, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of NiKem Research Srl, commented:

“Rod brings together a very strong scientific background and impressive reputation in both medicinal chemistry and preclinical drug development. His expanded scientific knowledge allows NiKem to be well placed to fully exploit its “one stop shop” business model, based on excellence as a service provider in medicinal chemistry, biological profiling, in vitro ADME and in vivo PK.”

Commenting on his appointment, Dr. Porter said:

“I have had the pleasure over the last eight years of watching the emergence of NiKem as a leading, high quality, cost effective and productive contract drug discovery research organisation and seeing at close quarters, as a client, the high quality and commitment the company brings to its collaborations. I am therefore delighted to now have an opportunity to work as part of the NiKem Research team to continue to develop and promote both existing and the exciting new capabilities this organisation is introducing, and to pursue appropriate, carefully selected alliances to ensure the continued growth of the company”.

About NiKem Research Srl. 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 and biotechnology industry. In addition to its deep expertise in medicinal chemistry related to hit validation, multi-parametric lead optimization and candidate selection, NiKem Research has chemical skills and parallel synthesis capabilities fully supported by computational and analytical chemistry services. Furthermore, ADMET profiling, biochemical screening and in vivo PK services can be provided either as an integrated Drug Discovery platform, or as single, independent modules. NiKem Research usually operates as a classical fee-for-service partner, and all tangible and intangible assets generated during a collaboration are assigned to the client.

For further information visit www.nikemresearch.com