

Nijmegen, December 20th, 2007

MERCACHEM ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF MEDICINAL ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SERVICES

Mercachem has appointed Dr Geert Jan Sterk as the new Head of Medicinal Chemistry Services. Together with his group, coming from ALTANA Pharma, he will enhance Mercachem's capabilities in medicinal organic chemistry services and expand the discovery chemistry services portfolio. Geert Jan will head the new services of Mercachem in the field of hit-to-lead optimization and lead optimization.

Geert Jan has worked for 20 years at Altana Pharma as a Group Leader Preclinical Research and brings a wealth of knowledge and project experience in target validation, hit finding, lead finding/optimization in different projects. His medicinal chemistry experience and that of his staff is formed by research with a multitude of targets in the fields of inflammation, oncology, the cardiovascular and bronchopulmonar system, anti-virals and anti-parasites. Geert Jan Sterk has co-authored in 39 patents and 28 publications and has given more than 30 presentations on national and international Medicinal Chemistry meetings.

Geert Jan has studied Organic chemistry and Biochemistry at the Free University of Amsterdam, where he also performed his PhD under supervision of Professor Henk Timmerman in the field of histaminergic compounds.

About Mercachem bv:

Mercachem is a privately owned, independent contract research organization offering state-of-the-art synthetic chemistry services to accelerate the R&D process in a flexible and cost-effective way. Mercachem was founded in 1997 and currently employs 100 people in total. The company is located in Nijmegen, The Netherlands and moved to a brand-new laboratory facility of 3000m² in 2006.

Working for some of the major pharmaceutical and biotech companies in the world, Mercachem is recognized for its high quality products and services and its fast problem-solving capabilities. We apply modern research tools and methodologies. Excellent reporting and ongoing communication between the client and the project team is a vital part of the process. Speed and flexibility are important considerations in current research programs. By using our focused and client-oriented approach, we can meet the demands and deadlines of our clients. Projects are managed by experienced project managers and handled by experienced teams.

All services *are* provided on an exclusive basis. No rights on products or newly developed intellectual property will be retained. Innovation is part of our strategy to provide high quality products and services. This has led to the development and implementation of an Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN) and a 48 position parallel autoclave to increase our work and research efficiency.

Further information about the Company can be obtained at www.Mercachem.com

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