



Press Release

CyBio and Axxam sign collaboration agreement

Expanding competence in drug discovery

Jena and Milan, 8th February 2005 – CyBio AG and Axxam srl have signed a contract to cooperate in the development and marketing of new technologies for drug discovery using automated luminescence screening systems.

CyBio is a worldwide life science company. As an innovative technology provider, CyBio develops, produces and markets technology platforms for drug discovery. With more than 15 years of experience, CyBio establishes new standards for precision, speed and engineering with its hardware, software and service products for the automation of drug screening processes.

Axxam is an international drug-discovery partner that provides life sciences companies with innovative HTS and uHTS assays for a wide range of targets including G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs), ion channels, transporters and nuclear hormone receptors. In order to improve assay performance, Axxam is continuously developing innovative tools and technologies like PhotinaTM, a novel calcium-detecting photoprotein, which yields superior signal levels and can be applied to a large number of different screening platforms.

With this agreement, CyBio combines its excellent detection and automation technology with Axxam's proprietary PhotinaTM assay technology for functional screening. CyBio brings to the collaboration the innovative CyBi[®] - Cellight System, an automated platform for the measurement of cellular processes built with the reliable and proven liquid-handling technology of CyBio and the new CyBi[®] - Lumax flash HT Reader. Being the the perfect solution for simultaneous dispensing and luminescence detection the CyBi[®] - Lumax flash HT enables superior throughput and data quality in functional screenings.

Axxam's cell-based PhotinaTM assay technology generates a "flash" luminescence and represents the most elegant and straightforward method to measure calcium release during large-scale compound screening campaigns for the identification of novel modulators of important targets such as GPCRs and ion channels. PhotinaTM was developed with a particular emphasis on signal stability, calcium sensitivity, light production and intracellular localization and can be easily and effectively applied to different screening platforms. The

robust, flash luminescence signal obtained with the Photina™ cell line allows the detection of light signals from as few as 100 cells and is well-suited for all applications in the high-throughput and ultra-high throughput (e.g. 1536 MTP format) screening process in the pharmaceutical industry, and also for the study of any biological process involving calcium release.

With this cooperation, CyBio will extend its eminent competence in linking biological assays and detection technology. In combination with Axxam's assay technology, CyBio will generate new applications for CyBi® - Lumax flash HT and CyBio's automation technology. Axxam, with its Photina™ technology, will benefit from broader access to automated high-throughput screening (uHTS) and will expand its capabilities as an important provider of new assay technologies and services in drug discovery.

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