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Bachem and Atheris collaborate on Melusine® venom peptide libraries for lead discovery

Bubendorf and Geneva, Switzerland, September 9, 2010 – Bachem (SIX: BANB) today announced that the company concluded an agreement with Atheris Laboratories to market their Melusine® libraries, consisting of natural products isolated from animal venoms. The agreement includes services to assist customers with the identification of the active ingredients and to synthesize individual compounds.

These libraries, isolated from venomous animals, have been fractionated to provide well-defined mixtures. The main components are peptide toxins, a class of interest for the development of peptide based therapeutics and cosmetics. Atheris and Bachem intend to encourage the screening of these compounds to expand and support their applications as drugs.

Deconvolution and structural elucidation of hits and lead selection/optimization can be performed at Atheris. Following identification of a hit from screening, Bachem is in the position to offer custom syntheses for lead compounds and to provide support for clinical development of drug candidates.

Dr. Lester Mills, CMO of Bachem, comments: “Melusine® collections represent innovative products and will encourage the development of peptide therapeutics in this class to further strengthen Bachem’s worldwide leadership in peptide manufacturing”.

“We are particularly proud and enthusiastic regarding this partnership with Bachem” adds Dr. Reto Stöcklin, President & CEO of Atheris, who continues: “Not only our visibility and the credibility of our activities is increased, but in addition, this collaboration will also promote the development of new innovative venom-derived drugs.”

For additional information about Melusine®, please visit www.melusine.com.

About Bachem

Bachem is an independent, technology-based, public biochemicals company providing full service to the pharma and biotech industry. Bachem is specialized in the process development and the manufacturing of peptides and complex organic molecules as active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), as well as innovative biochemicals for research purposes. With headquarters in Bubendorf, Switzerland, and affiliates in Europe and the US, Bachem works on a global scale and holds a leading position in the field of peptides.

For more information about Bachem, please visit www.bachem.com.



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About Atheris

Atheris Laboratories is a dynamic family-owned and family-driven Swiss biotech company founded by Dr. Reto Stöcklin in 1995. Atheris is a contract research organization (CRO) specialized in peptide and protein drug discovery, peptidomics, bioinformatics, metabolic studies offering high quality bioanalytical services. The company is committed to provide innovative services and products to the life sciences community. Under the brand name Melusine®, Atheris has developed unique collections of pre-fractionated venoms ready-made for high throughput screening (HTS). As a world leader in venom research, Atheris is the partner of choice for drug discovery and lead optimization for venom-derived bioactives.

For additional information, please visit www.atheris.com.

For further questions, please visit www.melusine.com or contact wonder@melusine.com.

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