



Press Information

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InSphero AG and SIRION BIOTECH GmbH announce Development & Marketing cooperation on 3D-based cell models

München / Martinsried, InSphero AG and SIRION BIOTECH GmbH, two privately-held biotech companies based in Zurich and Martinsried near Munich, respectively, announced today an agreement allowing for a close cooperation on the development and the promotion of most innovative cell models in the form of three-dimensional (3D) microtissues.

Both companies gain access to the partner's products and services to advance cell-based assays for improved identification of novel compounds and target validation. Both companies stand ready to provide jointly coordinated custom services. Clients can receive within a matter of weeks genetically custom-tailored cells (provided by SIRION BIOTECH) which are transformed to more organotypic 3D microtissues (provided by InSphero).

Cells provided in the 3D microtissue format drastically improve the biological relevance and increase the predictivity of most cell-based assays. Late-stage failure rates in drug and other compound discovery can be reduced significantly.

Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, InSphero CEO: "SIRION BIOTECH gives us access to most innovative cell models which we can apply in our unique scaffold-free 3D technology. InSphero 3D microtissues are ideally suited to screening applications, as they are delivered assay-ready in a standard 96-well format with one tissue per well and outstanding size reproducibility of less than 8% standard deviation. SIRION and InSphero clients will have one contact partner in order to conveniently access advanced cell-based assay technology." Dr. Christian Thirion, Founder and CTO of SIRION BIOTECH: "On its way to changing the paradigm in target validation SIRION BIOTECH has made an additional significant step: clients are now able to investigate their target with tissue models which are as close to 'reality' as possible today."

About InSphero AG:

InSphero AG is a leading supplier of organotypic, biological in-vitro 3D microtissues for highly predictive drug testing. The company, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, currently counts 7 of the top ten global pharmaceutical and cosmetics companies as customers, and is helping them implement the company's patent-pending microtissue technology in their development work-flow. InSphero's 3D microtissues are scaffold free, highly reproducible and delivered in an automation-compatible 96-well format to replace conventional 2D cell assays for better biological relevance and predictivity. The 3D

cancer microtissues reflect tumor physiology and are used routinely for screening. For toxicology and metabolics applications, rat and human 3D liver microtissues predict even rare cases of idiosyncratic toxicology and remain viable for more than 5 weeks for chronic studies. InSphero's off-the-shelf portfolio of assay-ready microtissues is complemented by custom-made 3D microtissues with a development time of 4-6 weeks and production turnaround of less than 10 days.

InSphero is a spin-off company of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich and the University Zurich.

About SIRION BIOTECH

SIRION BIOTECH GmbH is a biotech company that produces genetically modified cells and is a technology provider in the area of viral vector systems. The company was founded in 2006 and is located in Martinsried near Munich. The expert in RNAi and gene overexpression technologies offers a wide range of more than 100 products and services. Using state of the art techniques and assay systems the company offers reliable lead-through service projects in target validation, screening and drug discovery.

With its strong expertise SIRION BIOTECH serves as a partner for the development of optimized vector platforms, cell models and cellular assay systems for numerous in vitro and in vivo applications. SIRION BIOTECH currently operates projects for most of the major pharmaceutical companies in Europe and has ongoing collaborations with leading academic and governmental research institutes.

Contact:

InSphero AG
Dr. Jan Lichtenberg
Technoparkstrasse 1
8005 Zurich
Tel.: +41-44-515049-0
Fax +41-44-515049-1

SIRION BIOTECH GmbH
Dr. Christian Thirion
Am Klopferspitz 19
D-82152 Martinsried
Tel.: +49-89-700-961-99-16
Fax: +49-89-700-961-99-8