**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Axxam and Proximagen enter into a strategic collaboration for the discovery of novel molecules against targets for CNS disorders, pain and inflammation**

**January 10th 2018 – Milan (Italy) and Cambridge (UK)**

Axxam S.p.A. and Proximagen Ltd. today announced a strategic drug discovery collaboration for the identification and optimisation of small molecules as potential therapeutics in the fields of neuroscience, pain and inflammation.

Over the course of the collaboration, Axxam and Proximagen scientists will collaborate to identify novel molecules modulating validated and promising biological targets of therapeutic interest for a range of disorders requiring novel therapeutic approaches. Starting from assay development and high throughput screening campaigns, using the Axxam AXX$^{DIV3.0}$ library, the subsequent hits will be progressed through optimisation at Proximagen.

This collaboration is the latest evolution of an existing relationship between the two companies.

The biological targets and business terms have not been disclosed.

**Dr**. **Russell Thomas, Director of Strategic Alliances** at Axxam said "*We are very happy to initiate this latest phase in our collaboration with Proximagen. In our time working together we have been very impressed by the rigorous way Proximagen address the challenge of developing novel small molecule therapeutics. This has allowed us to develop the collaboration into a true strategic relationship.*"

*This alliance is the latest chapter in the commitment of Axxam to addressing the high unmet needs through innovative drug discovery.*

**Dr. Martyn Pritchard, Head of R&D** at Proximagen said "*Collaborations have always been a key part of Proximagen's R&D strategy. We are pleased to*

*extend our relationship with Axxam as a company with complementary expertise and an excellent reputation for hit identification. This will enable Proximagen to accelerate programs into lead optimization to identify candidate drugs."*

## About Axxam S.p.A

Axxam is an innovative Partner Research Organization (iPRO). We are a leading provider of integrated discovery services across Life Sciences industries including: pharmaceuticals, crop protection, animal health, cosmetics, fragrances, food and beverages. We have consolidated expertise across a broad range of discovery disciplines and innovative technologies including: assay development, high-throughput screening of both the Axxam high quality compound collections (synthetic and natural) or those provided by our clients, compound management, hit identification and hit validation. Our performance-driven approach has been recognized by our clients as key to the success for their discovery programs. Axxam is also engaged in alliance-based research towards innovative small molecule therapies for diseases with a high unmet medical need. Axxam's business terms are flexible, ranging from fee-for-service to risk-sharing deal structures. For more information, please visit [www.axxam.com](www.axxam.com).

## About Proximagen Ltd.

Proximagen and its predecessor companies have a long heritage of successful discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutics, in particular in the areas of CNS, pain and inflammation.

In the UK, Proximagen has an integrated drug discovery facility based in Cambridge, with in house capabilities in medicinal chemistry, biology and drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics. In the US, the company has a team based in Minneapolis providing drug development, project management and translational medicine expertise.

Proximagen has a clinical stage collaboration with Roche in the area of inflammation, and a drug discovery collaboration with Saniona in neurology and pain. For more information, visit [www.proximagen.com](www.proximagen.com).