



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Aptuit LLC and Axxam SpA announce Strategic Alliance for Integrated Drug
Discovery Services**

Commence major integrated discovery program for large Pharma sponsor

Greenwich, CT and Milan (Italy) - April 14, 2015 – Aptuit LLC, a premier global drug discovery and development CRO and Axxam SpA, a leading discovery company with expertise in target biology and a broad range of early phase discovery solutions, announced a strategic alliance to provide comprehensive and integrated services from gene to high quality candidates and beyond. This partnership will allow the companies to offer the best-in-class fully integrated drug discovery and development services, supported by a culture of scientific excellence and innovation.

Jonathan Goldman, Chief Executive Officer, Aptuit LLC stated, “We serve biopharmaceutical companies in the discovery of small molecules in a broad range of therapeutic areas including neuroscience, oncology, infectious disease, inflammation, respiratory and others. Our alliance with Axxam is part of our growth strategy. This best-in-class partnership broadens Aptuit’s scientific excellence in advanced integrated discovery by leveraging Axxam’s capabilities in early discovery. In particular we are excited to enhance our hit identification, validation, and expansion services, by allowing seamless and very high quality delivery of an asset from target to candidate nomination. Expected benefits include increased probability of successful IND candidate nomination, reduced timeline and reduced cost.”

Stefan Lohmer, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Axxam SpA, added, “We are very pleased to announce the strategic alliance with Aptuit. Our companies share a common culture of scientific excellence and quality. This alliance will allow some of our customers to leverage our deep expertise in target biology, assay development and High Throughput Screening even further. This can be combined with downstream solutions at Aptuit towards candidate nomination and IND filing. The complementary and comprehensive skillsets of our two companies include all the scientific disciplines necessary to translate a promising target into a preclinical candidate. This alliance responds to the increasing demands from the market for high quality fully integrated drug discovery services.”

Aptuit and Axxam are also delighted to announce that the partnership has already resulted in the commencement of the first significant joint integrated project with a large pharma sponsor.

For more information about Aptuit please contact Nerina Coppini either by phone at +39 0458219248 or by email: nerina.coppini@aptuit.com. For more information about Axxam, or to speak with Dr. Lohmer, please contact Sabrina Corazza at +39 02 2105634 or sabrina.corazza.sc@axxam.com.



About Aptuit LLC (www.apuit.com)

Aptuit LLC provides the most complete set of integrated early discovery to mid-phase drug development services in the pharmaceutical industry including Drug Design & Discovery, API Development and Manufacture, Solid State Chemistry, CMC, Preclinical and IND enabling GLP/GMP programs. Fully integrated drug discovery & development services are available from a single site at The Aptuit Center for Drug Discovery & Development center in Verona, Italy. The company maintains resources around the world, with facilities in the US, UK and Italy. Aptuit LLC is partnered with Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, one of the world's leading private equity investors.

About Axxam SpA (www.axxam.com)

Axxam SpA is a privately owned contract research and discovery company located at the Science Park OpenZone in Bresso (Milan, Italy). The Company is a leading provider of integrated discovery services for the entire Life Sciences industries as: Pharmaceutical, Crop protection, Animal health, Cosmetics and Nutrition. Axxam has a strong expertise across a broad range of discovery disciplines and innovative technologies including: assay development, compound management, HTS, hit identification and hit validation. Axxam is also engaged in developing novel innovative therapies for diseases with a high unmet medical need.