



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Axxam and Mercachem Sign a Strategic Alliance
for Integrated Drug Discovery Services**

Milan (Italy) and Nijmegen (The Netherlands) – September 8th 2016 - Axxam, a leading drug discovery company with expertise in early phase discovery biology, and Mercachem, a leading discovery chemistry company with expertise in both medicinal and process chemistry, announce a strategic alliance to provide integrated discovery services spanning all phases from gene to fully optimized leads and beyond. This partnership will allow the companies to offer best-in-class fully integrated drug discovery services, supported by a culture of scientific excellence and innovation.

The combination of the two companies' platforms, each with a long-standing reputation and track record of scientific excellence and delivery for their partners, provides to partners a seamless combination of robust assay development, high throughput screening, hit validation and subsequent medicinal chemistry optimization for a wide range of innovative and challenging biological targets.

Stefan Lohmer, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Axxam, added, "We are very pleased to announce the strategic alliance with Mercachem. Axxam is a *biology driven* company with a deep expertise in target biology, assay development and high throughput screening, with a culture of scientific excellence and attention to quality and client needs. These are the pillars to deliver excellent results for our clients and Mercachem shares the same philosophy, applied to their *chemistry centric services*. The complementary and comprehensive skillsets of Axxam and Mercachem provide a concrete solution to the increasing demands of the market for integrated drug discovery services of the highest quality".

Frank Leemhuis, Managing Director of Mercachem stated "We are glad to strengthen our integrated drug discovery offering through this strategic alliance with Axxam. Understanding the underlying mechanisms of enzyme inhibition and ligand–receptor interactions allows biological challenges to be solved through high-quality chemistry and we believe that Axxam and Mercachem with their respective platforms, know-how and track record in the service business are ideally suited to fully exploit this unique combination of core competencies".

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. For more information about Mercachem please contact Mr. Norimasa Morita either by phone at +31 6 8324 1632 or by email: norimasa.morita@mercachem.com.



About Axxam SpA

Axxam SpA is a privately owned iPRO (innovative Partner Research Organization) and discovery company located at the Science Park Openzone in Bresso (Milan, Italy). The Company is a leading provider of 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. For more information, please visit www.axxam.com.

About Mercachem

Mercachem is a privately owned leading European contract research organization offering innovative chemistry, medicinal chemistry and early process research services and GMP production to accelerate the drug discovery and development process in a flexible and cost-effective way. Working for many pharmaceutical and biotech companies throughout the world, Mercachem is recognized for its high-quality products and services and its unprecedented problem solving capabilities. More information on Mercachem can be found on the company website www.mercachem.com