

Proteros Biostructures GmbH and BioSolveIT GmbH Win Federal Funding for €5.5 Million Fragment-Screening Project

Collaboration with two major pharma companies and the University of Marburg for process development of fragment-based crystallography and in silico fragment screening for lead identification

St. Augustin and Munich, Germany April 14th, 2008 — BioSolveIT GmbH and Proteros biostructures GmbH today announced that they have been awarded a three-year development grant from the German Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF), through its BioChance programme. With the *FragScreen* project, the German ministry supports the development of fragment-based screening technologies. The objective of this project is to develop and validate an integrated experimental and computational approach to determine binding of low-molecular weight compounds and molecular probes.

Both companies will work in partnership with the world-renowned research group of Prof. Dr. Gerhard Klebe at the University of Marburg. The consortium is completed by two Top25 global pharmaceutical companies which will contribute to the project from the perspective of the industry requirements. The award highlights the German government's recognition of the need to build joint development teams between leading academic institutions and industrial partners small and large to bridge the gap between the research lab and the marketplace, stimulating prosperity through innovation.

"Today, Fragment-based technologies are among the hottest topics in this industry", says Dr. Christian Lemmen, CEO of BioSolveIT. "The *FragScreen* project will allow us to further improve and capitalize on our technological basis and to provide the pharma-industry with the most advanced applications available. We are very pleased to be able to further extend our lead in this field." "We too observe significant interest in the market for fragment based drug discovery approaches. Success strongly depends on a highly efficient and industrialized pre-screening and X-ray structure analysis process, which supports the structure-guided growing of the small fragment compounds", said Dr. Torsten Neuefeind, CEO of Proteros biostructures GmbH, an international leader in the field of protein structure analysis services.

About BioSolveIT

BioSolveIT GmbH (www.biosolveit.de) is a bio- and cheminformatics company. Its core businesses are software, services, and research collaborations. With three founders in academia, BioSolveIT has its backbone in science and catalyzes the genesis of products off of basic research successes. The company's software products are world-renown such as the molecular docking software FlexX and reach a significant customer-base. With the Feature Trees program BioSolveIT took leadership in ultra-fast virtual high throughput screening using a fragment-reassembly based approach. User-friendly GUIs and a suite of *de novo* design tools complete BioSolveIT's current software offerings.

About Proteros biostructures GmbH

Proteros biostructures is a privately held company that offers services and products for X-ray structure analysis and the production of proteins to the global life science industry. Proteros accelerates and optimizes structure analysis and structure-based

drug discovery through its expertise and unique technologies, such as the Free Mounting System™ (FMS™) and the Picodropper™. Proteros' collection of Gallery Structures, a catalogue of established drug targets, provides the means to generate protein-ligand structures within a few weeks, realizing a significant time and cost advantage for its clients. More information on Proteros can be found in the company's website at www.proteros.com.

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