



## Zealand and BioSolveIT create unique software tool, adding new dimensions to peptide drug design and development

- **Combining Zealand's expertise in peptide design and its extensive knowledge database with BiosolveIT's chemical informatics software capabilities**
- **The tool, which is named *PepSee*, will help Zealand accelerate peptide design with the potential to support innovation and push the boundaries of peptide research**
- **The collaboration is in line with Zealand's strategy to enhance its leading position in the field of peptide-based medicines**

St. Augustin, Germany, and Copenhagen, Denmark, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Zealand and BioSolveIT today inform that the companies have joined forces in the creation of a novel, unique software tool tailored to enhance and advance the design, research and development of therapeutic peptides.

Peptides are assemblies of amino acids and can be found in all living organisms, including the human body, where they play essential functional roles in many physiological processes. Medicinal peptide research is a field, which applies pattern recognition and structural optimization of these natural building blocks to guide the design of novel compounds with attractive properties for therapeutic use. Currently, software support in the field of therapeutic peptide research is limited.

Zealand has leading-edge, in-house competencies in the modification and structural design of peptides for therapeutic use, including expertise in the optimization of physico-chemical as well as pharmaco-kinetic and pharmaco-dynamic properties. BioSolveIT has leading expertise in both medicinal and computational chemistry and is globally reputed for their intuitive user interfaces. The companies have been working together to integrate Zealand's well-established understanding and database of peptides and their properties into a new software tool, which will be the first-ever of its kind.

A first version of the tool, which is named *PepSee*, has been launched at Zealand. The objective is for *PepSee* to combine visual computational peptide modeling, design and modality prediction capabilities with biological and physio-chemical data to support faster and further advanced therapeutic peptide research and development. Completion of a second version of *PepSee* is expected within 18 months. BiosolveIT will own the software while Zealand will have a free user license for its application and integration into the company's leading design skills and extensive peptide knowledge database.

**Britt Meelby Jensen, President and CEO at Zealand**, commented: *"We are delighted to work with BioSolveIT on this unique project. It is part of our strategy to continuously expand Zealand's peptide competencies, and the first version of PepSee has already demonstrated its potential to support innovation and enhance our efficiency in the design of novel peptide therapeutics. More importantly, as more features are added, we will push further the boundaries of peptide discovery and development. BioSolveIT has a strong reputation for innovation, usability, and quality of service and we look forward to finalizing the development of this unique peptide research software tool."*

**Dr. Marcus Gastreich, Director Application Science of BioSolveIT**, said: *"PepSee is a perfect example of BioSolveIT's core expertise: creating fast, visual and user-friendly software tools which have the potential to deliver rapid improvements to scientific innovation. We are delighted that Zealand, with its world-recognized excellence in therapeutic peptide research and design, has chosen to work with us to shape the most relevant tool possible. We believe that this tool will add new dimensions to advanced peptide design."*

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## About BioSolveIT GmbH

BioSolveIT GmbH ("BioSolveIT") is a globally active medicinal chemistry informatics company. BioSolveIT is highly renowned for their superior custom software solutions for affinity estimation, structure-based design, docking, flexible molecular alignment, database searching, library design, and analysis. Their visual and fast computational technologies help to innovate pharmaceutical research with a proven track record in almost all big pharma companies, amongst them AstraZeneca, F.A. Hoffmann-LaRoche, BASF, Bayer, Boehringer-Ingelheim, GSK, Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and many others. Their latest portfolio addition, SeeSAR, is a co-development with Bayer and Hamburg University, and tackles the most complex challenge of predicting binding strengths of therapeutic molecule candidates. Profiting from a radically simple user interface, it addresses computationally inexperienced medicinal chemists and experts alike.

BioSolveIT is based in Sankt Augustin, Germany and entertains a support and sales office in Seattle, USA, and several distribution partner offices in Japan, China, and India.

For further information: [www.biosolveit.com](http://www.biosolveit.com)

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## About Zealand Pharma

Zealand Pharma A/S (Nasdaq Copenhagen: ZEAL) ("Zealand") is a biotech company with leading-edge scientific expertise in turning peptides into medicines. Zealand has a growing proprietary pipeline of novel investigational medicines and a mature portfolio of products and projects under license collaborations with Sanofi, Helsinn Healthcare and Boehringer Ingelheim.

The company's first invented medicine, lixisenatide, a once-daily prandial GLP-1 analogue for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, is licensed to Sanofi who markets the product globally (ex-US) as Lyxumia® and has it under regulatory review in the US. The license agreement with Sanofi covers also LixiLan, which is the reference name for the fixed-ratio, single-product combination of lixisenatide and insulin glargine 100 Units/mL (Lantus®). LixiLan is under regulatory priority review by the US FDA and regulatory submission in the EU is planned by Sanofi for Q1 2016.

Zealand's proprietary pipeline includes: ZP4207 (a stable glucagon rescue treatment) for severe hypoglycemia (Phase II); ZP1848 for Short Bowel Syndrome (Phase II); ZP4207 (multiple-dose version) for better hypoglycemia management in diabetes (Phase I); ZP2929 for diabetes/obesity (Phase I); and several preclinical peptide therapeutics.

The company is based in Copenhagen (Glostrup), Denmark. For further information about Zealand's business and activities, please visit: [www.zealandpharma.com](http://www.zealandpharma.com) or follow us on Twitter @ZealandPharma