

Bio-Rad Joins Forces with Aureus Pharma and Equbits LLC to Optimize the *In Silico* Prediction of Biological Properties in Preclinical Drug Research

PHILADELPHIA, PA, August 10, 2005 - Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. (AMEX: BIO; BIOb), announced today a collaboration to use its KnowItAll® ADME/Tox software in conjunction with knowledge database solutions from Aureus Pharma to create an optimal combination of tools for model building and property prediction of potentially viable drug candidates.

Building predictive models to evaluate ADME/Tox properties is an important tool to enhance productivity in drug discovery. Though this unique collaboration, pharma and biotech companies can successfully use software from Bio-Rad in conjunction with ADME and hERG knowledgebases from Aureus to design *in silico* models that will improve the lead optimization process. These tools can be applied to a range of biological properties of importance in preclinical research, such as CYP inhibition, hERG inhibition, and others.

A third collaborator, longtime Bio-Rad partner Equbits LLC, contributes to the solution with its Foresight ADME Tox Edition software. Foresight software is used to analyze the structure activity relationships of the molecules in the Aureus databases, and correlate SAR to properties. The Foresight software then builds a prediction model, which is used within the KnowItAll environment.

Bio-Rad's KnowItAll Informatics System for *in silico* ADME/Tox and drug discovery lead optimization offers a complete suite of tools for the computer-based prediction of a potential drug's ADME/Tox profile, including the one of the largest collections of global predictive models, applications to build local predictive models, experimental ADME/Tox data, and integrated tools for chemical structure handling, data management, and reporting. By combining the use of this system with Aureus Pharma's AurSCOPE® knowledge databases and the AurQUEST® web-based system, researchers can rapidly access accurate data and build efficient models with different methods.

Gregory M. Banik, Ph.D., General Manager of Bio-Rad's Informatics Division remarked, "We are very pleased to partner with Aureus Pharma, whose carefully analyzed and highly valuable knowledge database collections are a perfect complement to Bio-Rad's ADME/Tox systems. Through a combination of state of these state-of-the art tools—the Equbits Foresight™ SVM model building program, the high-quality reference data from Aureus, and the award-winning KnowItAll cheminformatics platform with its advanced data management and data mining tools—scientists can fully assess and optimize the ADME/Tox and pharmacological profiles of their lead series with ease."

Mary E. Donlan, Ph.D, Aureus Pharma's Director of Marketing and Sales, stated, "Using Aureus' knowledgebase solutions in conjunction with Bio-Rad's KnowItAll tool set offers a new direction for researchers involved with *in silico* research. By taking advantage of this powerful combination of solutions, researchers can more easily reach their goals for improved R&D productivity."

About *In Silico* ADME/Tox

Within drug discovery, most failed compounds have problems associated with their Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion, or Toxicity (ADME/Tox) profile. Virtual, or *in silico* ADME/Tox prediction is used to evaluate the ADME/Tox profile of a compound, even before it is synthesized, in order to eliminate poor drug candidates early on in the drug discovery cycle.

About Bio-Rad

Bio-Rad's Informatics Division (www.informatics.bio-rad.com) specializes in state-of-the-art software and database solutions for the pharmaceutical, biotech, and chemical industries. Bio-Rad is the leading publisher of fully verified spectral databases, cheminformatics, spectroscopy software, and decision support systems for drug discovery. The company's award-winning KnowItAll Informatics System offers a fully integrated environment with flexible, expandable software and database solutions for spectroscopy (MS, NMR, IR, Raman, spectral data management), cheminformatics, *in silico* ADME/Tox prediction, and lead optimization.

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. (www.bio-rad.com) is a multinational manufacturer and distributor of life science research, clinical diagnostics, and informatics products. It is based in Hercules, California, and serves more than 70,000 research and industry customers worldwide through a network of more than 30 wholly owned subsidiary offices.

About Aureus Pharma

Aureus Pharma headquartered in Paris, France is a privately held knowledge management based solutions provider for the life sciences industry. Aureus Pharma accelerates new drug discovery by providing knowledge databases which contain high quality quantitative information for both chemistry and biology. Researchers gain rapid access to knowledge for important drug target classes including GPCR, Ion Channel, Kinase as well as other critical pharmaceutical topics including ADME/Drug-Drug Interactions and the hERG Channel. The information contained in the Aureus Pharma system is of primary importance to aid in lead discovery and optimization as well as to build predictive models. For further information on how Aureus Pharma helps researchers turn data into discovery visit www.aureus-pharma.com

About Equbits

Equbits LLC (www.equbits.com) provides software that helps scientists at pharmaceutical companies accelerate lead optimization. Equbits is a leading provider of state-of-the-art machine learning techniques for pharmaceutical scientists. Equbits applies advanced machine learning techniques including Support Vector Machines to QSAR (Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship) predictive modeling in an easy to use, intuitive software application geared towards HTS (High Throughput Screening) and ADME chemists. Founded by experts in the fields of machine learning, chemistry and software development, Equbits makes drug discovery possible with first-in-class computational applications that provide the most accurate, interpretable results.

Various statements made within this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" for purposes of the Securities and Exchange Commission's "safe harbor" provisions under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and Rule 3b-6 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The forward-looking statements contained herein involve risks and uncertainties that could cause results to differ materially from the Company's expectations.

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