

## Exonhit reports key progress in the introduction of AclarusDx™ in the French IVD market

- Almac Diagnostics will serve as reference laboratory for AclarusDx™

**Paris, France – June 29, 2011** – Exonhit (Alternext: ALEHT) announced today the signature of an agreement with Almac Diagnostics Limited which will serve as the reference laboratory for the analysis of samples tested with AclarusDx™, its blood-based test intended to help in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and which is currently being introduced in the French IVD market. This agreement follows the successful technology transfer that was performed between Exonhit and Almac during the last few months.

"We chose Almac Diagnostics as our reference lab to perform the analytic phase of AclarusDx™ due to its strong expertise in molecular biology and its practice of the Affymetrix platform," said Loïc Maurel, M.D., Chairman of the Management Board at Exonhit. "We also view the location of Almac Diagnostics in Northern Ireland as an asset for the upcoming roll-out of AclarusDx™ in Europe."

"This partnership between Almac Diagnostics and Exonhit is an excellent arrangement for both companies. It will enable Exonhit to focus on the sales and marketing of AclarusDx™ while Almac Diagnostics will concentrate on the delivery of the diagnostic in its ISO17025 certified laboratory," stated Professor Paul Harkin, President and Managing Director of Almac's Diagnostics business.

Almac Diagnostics will be the sole laboratory to analyze AclarusDx™ samples, thus ensuring the reproducibility of results obtained with this specialized assay.

In practice, memory centers will send their patient samples to Almac Diagnostics, Exonhit remaining in control of logistics. Almac's clinical laboratory will extract the biological material (RNA) and perform the whole process up to hybridization and reading of microarrays. Data will be analyzed with the software developed by Exonhit to generate a report with the results of the test. It will be sent back to clinicians to aid them in making the diagnosis of their patients.

Almac Diagnostics will analyze all samples coming from memory clinics, as well as those coming from the clinical study in a real life setting. This study will include approximately 600 patients coming from a large number of memory clinics in France. It aims at supporting the use of AclarusDx™ within diagnostic algorithms currently used by memory centers to diagnose AD.

### About AclarusDx™

AclarusDx™ is a blood-based test intended to help in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD). This test is based on the compared analysis of AD patients' transcriptome with that of healthy controls. It was developed by identifying a signature gathering biomarkers linked to more than 130 genes including some particularly involved in inflammatory and immune mechanisms observed in AD. A French multicenter blind validation study involving 164 individuals, helped to establish the assay performance: a sensitivity of 81% and a specificity of 67% (1).

## About Almac

Almac's Diagnostics business unit is focused on the discovery and development of biomarkers. It utilises its proprietary technology, extensive experience and expertise to offer solutions to biotech and Pharma partners. Almac focus on providing a range of services including exploratory biomarker discovery studies, verification studies for existing markers, assay development and biomarker validation.

The Almac Group offers a broad range of services from R&D, biomarker discovery and development, API manufacture, formulation development, clinical trial supply and IXRS technology (IVRS/IWRS), to commercial-scale manufacture. Almac provides services to more than 600 companies, including all the world leaders in the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors.

The company employs over 3,000 individuals and is headquartered in Craigavon, Northern Ireland. US operations are based in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and California. Staff have now transferred to Almac's new \$120m North American Headquarters which is now fully operational.

For more information about the Almac Group, please visit [www.almacgroup.com](http://www.almacgroup.com) or e-mail [info@almacgroup.com](mailto:info@almacgroup.com).

## About Exonhit

Exonhit (Alternext: ALEHT) is a biotech company, focused on personalized medicine, which develops targeted innovative therapeutic and diagnostic products, in oncology and Alzheimer's disease. Exonhit has a balanced investment strategy with internal development programs and strategic collaborations, in particular with Allergan.

Exonhit is headquartered in Paris, France and has a U.S. subsidiary in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The Company is listed on Alternext of NYSE Euronext Paris and is part of the NYSE Alternext OSEO innovation index. For more information, please visit <http://www.exonhit.com>.

## Disclaimer

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*Finally, this press release may be drafted in the French and English languages. In an event of differences between the texts, the French language version shall prevail.*

## References

(1) In house data

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