

## Press Release



### **EXONHIT ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO SERVE AS THE EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER OF MOLECULAR PROFILING SERVICES TO FRENCH CRO, XENTECH**

**Paris, France – 22 September 2008** - ExonHit Therapeutics S.A. (Alternext: ALEHT), a drug and diagnostic discovery company, announces that Xentech, a French contract research organization (CRO) specializing in preclinical evaluation of novel anti-tumor agents, has selected ExonHit to be the exclusive provider of genomic services, including microarray based gene expression profiling using ExonHit's unique and proprietary SpliceArray™ technology in Xentech's client and internal research projects.

John Jaskowiak, EVP of Molecular Diagnostics & Genomic Services at ExonHit, remarks, "We look forward to complementing Xentech's expertise with drug efficacy studies using their novel human tumor xenograft models with our gene expression profiling services for the identification of response vs. non-response gene signature biomarkers. These response biomarkers may aid in the design of clinical trials as well as potentially decreasing the cost and accelerating the timeline of clinical development."

Jean-Gabriel Judde, PhD, President & CSO of Xentech, comments, "*ExonHit was the logical choice for our gene expression profiling needs because of their vast expression profiling experience as well as their proven ability to deliver exceptional reports in a timely manner. They are an excellent partner for our services.*"

*"We are very excited about this relationship with Xentech as there are obvious synergies between our respective companies",* said ExonHit CEO, Loïc Maurel, M.D. Dr. Maurel continues, "*We look forward to continuing to expand our genomic services business with collaborations such as with Xentech.*"

As a CRO, XenTech offers consulting in preclinical oncology and is rapidly expanding its range of tumor models and technologies, such as non-invasive imaging to monitor orthotopic and metastatic tumor growth and ex vivo clonogenic and organotypic drug screening assays

#### **About ExonHit Therapeutics**

[www.exonhit.com](http://www.exonhit.com)

ExonHit Therapeutics is the world's leader in the analysis of alternative RNA splicing, a process which when deregulated plays a key role in the onset of various diseases.

ExonHit has a multi-component commercial strategy to capture the maximum value from its leadership in alternative splicing. The Company is already generating revenues from a new generation of microarrays, SpliceArray™ family of products that enable life science researchers to detect crucial disease-associated information. These products are marketed worldwide in conjunction with Agilent and Affymetrix. In the field of diagnostics, ExonHit has a major collaboration with bioMérieux to develop completely novel predictive blood-based cancer diagnostics, which could play a key role in improving the treatment of breast cancer and other major cancers.

In parallel, ExonHit is developing its own therapeutic pipeline in the field of neurodegenerative diseases and cancer. The Company has advanced drug candidates into clinical trials and is evaluating several promising pre-clinical compounds. ExonHit also has a strategic partnership with

Allergan, to discover and develop new therapeutics in the areas of pain, neurological diseases and ophthalmology. This collaboration provides on-going research funding to ExonHit.

Founded in 1997, ExonHit is headquartered in Paris, France and has a U.S. facility in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The Company is listed on Alternext of Euronext Paris (ticker: ALEHT; ISIN: FR0004054427) since November 17, 2005.

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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.*