



AMATSI (formerly CRID Pharma) and AVOGADRO combine strengths to become the French leader in drug development services

Montpellier (France), February 28, 2011. AMATSI (formerly known as CRID Pharma) and AVOGADRO, two contract drug development organizations, have today announced that they will combine to become the French leader in this sector.

This move has been supported by Acto Capital, a direct investment company of Groupama Private Equity, and who are now the main shareholder of the 'AMATSI group' that has been formed. The directors of AMATSI-AVOGADRO also remain shareholders.

With a turnover of 20 million euros in 2011 and more than 175 staff located in France and the United States, AMATSI and AVOGADRO offer their clients, who are principally pharmaceutical groups and biotech companies, a large range of services dedicated to drug development. By combining their expertise and know-how, the group is in position to provide its customers with an increased range of services including:

- Galenic development
- Analytical development
- Bio-analysis, PK-ADME studies, residues, etc.
- Quality control (GLP/GMP)
- ICH stability studies
- Clinical supplies manufacturing (sterile/non sterile), packaging, storage and distribution
- Regulatory support

Jean-Pascal Conduzorgues, President of AMATSI stated: *"With the support of AVOGADRO's team, we can offer a larger range of facilities to our clients, increased development capabilities as well as a stronger quality assurance framework. Together with André Weil, President of AVOGADRO and Jean-Pierre Arnaud, CEO, I am very pleased to see our companies bringing together their strengths whilst still maintaining our common values of responsiveness, flexibility and customer service."*

About AMATSI - AVOGADRO

AMATSI-AVOGADRO, located at Montpellier and Toulouse in France and Cambridge in the USA, is a Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) specializing in drug development services. AMATSI has been supporting the pharmaceutical and biotech industries in the clinical development of their drug candidates intended to human or veterinary use for more than twenty years.

With its strong team of 175 staff. AMATSI-AVOGADRO offers specialised pharmaceutical development services (galenic and analytical development, PK-ADME studies/ bioanalysis/ residues, quality control, ICH stability study and regulatory support) and clinical supplies management (manufacturing, packaging, storage and logistics). For more information about AMATSI-AVOGADRO, please visit www.amatsi.com and www.avogadro-lab.com.

About ACTO CAPITAL

Acto Capital, a direct investment team sponsored by Groupama Private Equity, invests primarily, and over the long term, in selected business sectors chosen for their fundamental qualities. ACTO CAPITAL has become a key player in France notably in the Health, Tourism and Leisure sectors.

Contacts

AMATSI

Jean-Pascal Conduzorgues, President (jp.conduzorgues@amatsi.com)

Christelle Dagoneau, Business Development Director (c.dagoneau@amatsi.com)

ACTO Capital

Jean-Marc Scéo (jsceo@groupama-pe.fr)

Thibaud Gachet (tgachet@groupama-pe.fr)