



## **Oncodesign Services, a Leading European CRO In Preclinical Drug Discovery Acquires ZoBio, A CRO Specialized in Small Molecule Drug Discovery**

**Dijon, France & Leiden, The Netherlands, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024** – Oncodesign Services (ODS), a leading Contract Research Organization specialized in drug discovery and preclinical services, announces its international expansion through the acquisition of ZoBio, a Dutch CRO expert in biophysics-based small molecule drug discovery.

This acquisition allows ODS to strengthen and extend its expertise and capabilities in the field of small molecule discovery to a fully integrated offering to support its customers' innovative programs from target validation to candidate selection.

ODS is notably well recognized for its expertise in preclinical evaluation of experimental therapies in major disease areas such as oncology and immuno-inflammation, as well as its expertise in medicinal chemistry, computational chemistry, DMPK, pharmaco-imaging and molecular radiotherapy. The company has succeeded in developing several drug candidates that have reached the clinical development phase together with its partner clients.

Founded more than 19 years ago, ZoBio has developed a reputation for scientific excellence and innovation in the field of biophysics-based drug discovery. With its best-in-class platform of protein sciences, biophysical and functional assays, structural biology and a unique well diversified small molecule fragment library, ZoBio has helped its clients bring multiple compounds to the clinic.

With this transaction, ODS and ZoBio jointly represent nearly 280 employees spread across Dijon and Les Ulis in France, Leiden in Netherlands and with subsidiaries in Canada and the United States. The deal creates the foundation for ODS's ambition to become a European leader in Drug Discovery by offering fully integrated drug discovery services and solutions, placing quality, scientific creativity, operational excellence and transparent client relationships at the heart of its strategy and investing in innovative technologies.

Dr. Fabrice Viviani, CEO of ODS commented: *"I am deeply grateful to my executive team with Gilles Cadiou, Sebastien Simon, Stephanie Belattar and to our investors Jean-François Felix and Maxence de Vienne from Elyan Partners who were instrumental to make this operation a real success. We are all very excited to welcome ZoBio to the Group, and thus strengthen our offering in small molecule drug discovery preclinical services from Gene-to-IND with leading-edge skills and technologies.*

*Oncodesign Services and ZoBio are highly complementary, and we are extremely pleased that Gregg Siegal, Rob Heetebrij and Jan Schultz have decided to continue the adventure and commitment with us to identify novel preclinical candidates for our customers in major disease areas, and to benefit also from the many commercial and operational synergies to come. And I am also pleased to welcome Nov Santé<sup>1</sup> as an investor whose financial support and life sciences expertise further strengthen Oncodesign Services to execute on its ambitious build up strategy."*

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<sup>1</sup> 'Nov Santé Actions Non Cotées', managed by Eurazeo

Dr. Gregg Siegal, CEO of ZoBio said: *“We are truly excited about the opportunity to combine our best-in-class Fragment Based Drug Discovery platform with the expertise of Oncodesign Services. We have looked at many ways to strategically expand our capabilities to cover a greater portion of the drug discovery pipeline and ODS was by far the best fit. Now we are looking forward to integrating with Fabrice’s team and bringing the best of both companies to our clients.”*

**About Oncodesign Services (ODS):**

Oncodesign Services (ODS) is a leading CRO specializing in drug discovery and preclinical services. It contributes to the development of innovative therapies in oncology, inflammation and infectious diseases, through integrated capabilities in medicinal chemistry, DMPK, pharmaco-imaging, bioanalysis, and in vivo/in vitro pharmacology. Oncodesign Services has 230 employees in France and Canada.

More information: [www.oncodesign-services.com](http://www.oncodesign-services.com)

**About ZoBio:**

ZoBio has built a class-leading platform that provides a complete solution for Fragment Based Drug Discovery to our clients. Our gene-to-lead capabilities include: protein production, biophysical and functional assays, structural biology (crystallography, NMR & cryoEM) and fragment focused medicinal chemistry. Our team of 46 people brings its dedication and expertise to help solve your largest drug discovery challenges.

More information: <http://www.zobio.com>

**About Elyan Partners:**

A member of the Edmond de Rothschild Private Equity Partnership, Elyan Partners SAS ("Elyan") is a financial investment advisor. Elyan is the exclusive advisor to Edmond de Rothschild Private Equity (France) for the ERES funds within the Edmond de Rothschild Group. Edmond de Rothschild Equity Strategies IV SLP, a professional fund managed by Edmond de Rothschild Private Equity (France), advised by Elyan Partners, invests in medium-sized companies in Europe and North America, mainly in four verticals: healthcare services, digitalization of B2B services, financial services and new consumers.

**About ERES IV SLP**

ERES IV SLP is a professional fund managed by Edmond de Rothschild Private Equity (France), authorized by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (« AMF »), and advised by Elyan Partners. ERES IV SLP is a fund registered under French law with the AMF, closed to marketing and reserved for professional investors within the meaning of the MIF Directive.

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