

## **Protéus and ARD: a natural collaboration for green chemistry**

### **White biotechnology for improved and environmentally friendly value creation from agri-resources**

**Nîmes and Pomacle, France, March 24, 2009** – Protéus, a leading biotechnology company focusing on the discovery, engineering and manufacturing of proteins of industrial interest, and ARD, the non-food agro-industry R&D company, today announced the signature of a collaborative agreement. ARD (Agro Industrie Recherches et Développements) is a research and development center for agro-industry groups which together represent a turnover of more than EUR 3 billion and are specialized in the development of agro-resources for non-food applications.

The aim of the cooperation agreement is to develop a molecule of interest to a wide range of industries. The two companies expect the partnership to improve the process of bioproduction of natural origin molecules in an economically competitive and environmentally friendly way.

"I am delighted with this collaboration which is a part of ARD's strategy to combine performance, innovation and respect for the environment," said Yvon Le Hénaff, General Manager of ARD. "Partnering with Protéus is a perfect fit with our needs given the company's world-class expertise in the field of natural biodiversity."

Dr. Gilles Ravot, CEO of Protéus commented: "This partnership with ARD, a major player in white biotechnology and bioproduction, is a tremendous opportunity to strengthen our activity in this field."

Under the terms of the agreement, Protéus will receive research funding and milestone payments related to specific achievements from ARD.

#### **About Protéus**

Protéus is an internationally recognized biotechnology company which focuses on the discovery, engineering and manufacturing of proteins of industrial interest, and on the development of innovative protein-based bioprocesses. The efficiency of Proteus' technology platform has been demonstrated by the successful track record of the company in the life sciences industry, including healthcare, chemistry (fine or specialty chemicals), environment and bioenergy.

Protéus reinforces the competitive edge of its clients by providing them with new industrial solutions and new industrial property rights. The comprehensive offering of Protéus includes industrial manufacturing capabilities to accelerate the development, the industrialization and the time-to-market of its clients' new products.

In order to fulfill this mission, Protéus possesses unique proprietary technologies including an exclusive biodiversity (source of new genes), protein engineering tools (for the delivery of bespoke enzymes for industrial application) and a protein manufacturing platform, allowing use of proteins as new industrial biocatalysts.

For more information: [www.proteus.fr](http://www.proteus.fr)

### About ARD

ARD (Agro industrie Recherches et Développements) is a major player in the bioindustry particularly in the context of valuation of non-food crops. ARD is the research and development center of agro-industrial groups collectively representing a turnover of more than 3 billion euros. ARD in 1985 started its research in the green chemistry and white biotechnology. With laboratories specializing in fractionation and chemistry of renewable resources, molecular biology and fermentation, chemical synthesis and analytical chemistry, ARD is developing several technologies that are now the success of its partner companies:

- **Soliance** : [www.groupesoliance.com](http://www.groupesoliance.com) A leading company producing bio-based ingredients for the cosmetic industry
- **Bioamber** : [www.bio-amber.com](http://www.bio-amber.com) A joint venture with the US company DNP Green Technology for the industrial development of biobased succinic acid.
- **Cristanol** : [www.cristal-union.fr](http://www.cristal-union.fr) One of the largest European bio-ethanol plants from wheat and sugar beets.

---

For more information, please contact:

#### Andrew Lloyd & Associates

Neil Hunter / Andrew Lloyd

[neil@ala.com](mailto:neil@ala.com) / [allo@ala.com](mailto:allo@ala.com)

Tel : +44 1273 675100

#### Contact : Protéus

Dr. Gilles Ravot,

70, allée Graham Bell, Parc Georges Besse 30000 Nîmes, France

[gravot@proteus.fr](mailto:gravot@proteus.fr)

Tel: +33 4 66 70 64 64 – Fax: +33 4 66 70 64 60

[www.proteus.fr](http://www.proteus.fr)

#### Contact: ARD

Dr. Anthony BRESIN,

Route de Bazancourt, 51110 Pomacle, France

[contact@a-r-d.fr](mailto:contact@a-r-d.fr)

Tel: +33 3 26 05 42 80 – Fax: + 33 3 26 05 12 89

---