



## **EDELIRIS announces extension of medicinal chemistry collaboration with Merck**

Lyon – January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Based on the results from an ongoing initial research collaboration aimed at hit exploration and lead optimization of compounds in diabetes, Edelris announced today that Merck Santé has extended its collaboration with Edelris in order to continue to access its medicinal chemistry expertise and capabilities.

"The Edelris team's innovative contribution, commitment to the project and real-time communication were the key factors of the first scientific results obtained from this challenging project," said Dr Peter Raddatz from Merck. "We are now looking forward to progressing toward additional results and a preclinical development candidate."

Dr. Jean-Yves Ortholand, CEO of Edelris, said "Our recognized medchem expertise, client-oriented mindset and flexibility of our teams, are what gave us the opportunity to work with Merck, thus enabling collaboration with the highest professionalism and quality standards, leading to important results."

### **About Merck Santé:**

MERCK SANTÉ represents the ethical pharmaceuticals division in France of Merck KGaA, with headquarters in Darmstadt, Germany.

The Merck group is a global chemical and pharmaceutical company with sales of EUR 5.87 billion in 2005, a history that began in 1668 and a future shaped by 30.000 employees in 54 countries. Its success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. The former U.S. subsidiary, Merck & Co., has been completely independent of the Merck group since 1917.

### **About Edelris:**

EDELIRIS is a MedChem-oriented Research & Service based company, dedicated to the design and production of innovative, therapeutically relevant, natural-mimetic screening compounds. Aiming at the acceleration of the hit/lead discovery process in pharmaceutical and biotech research organizations, EDELIRIS uses its track-proven chemistry and drug discovery expertise to provide novelty to its customers with exclusive or non-exclusive small molecules and with efficient hit/lead optimization capabilities.

Several customers from pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies have already recognized the value and specificity of Edelris offer, accessing either its experienced MedChem services or its innovative natural-mimetic Keyymical Collections™.