



Cerus Corporation and Ilex Biotech LTD Initiate Distribution Agreements for the INTERCEPT Blood System in South Africa and Israel

CONCORD, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE) --**Date TBD**, 2011-- Cerus Corporation (NASDAQ: CERS) today announced today that it has entered into agreements with Ilex Biotech Limited to distribute Cerus' INTERCEPT Blood System for platelets and plasma in South Africa and Israel. The INTERCEPT Blood System is designed to provide increased protection from a broad range of transfusion-transmitted pathogens, including bacteria and emerging pathogens such as the dengue and chikungunya viruses.

Under the terms of the agreements, Ilex will promote the sales, deployment and support of the INTERCEPT platelet system in South Africa and Israel. Approximately 75,000 platelet units and 175,000 plasma units are collected annually in these markets.

"I am impressed with Ilex's demonstrated success in bringing state-of-the-art safety technologies to South Africa, where the high rate of HIV-positive donations creates an exceptional challenge to blood safety," said William "Obi" Greenman, president and chief executive officer of Cerus Corporation. "We look forward to working with Ilex to bring INTERCEPT pathogen inactivation to both South Africa and Israel."

ABOUT CERUS

Cerus Corporation is a biomedical products company focused on commercializing the INTERCEPT Blood System to enhance blood safety. The INTERCEPT system is designed to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted diseases by inactivating a broad range of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria and parasites that may be present in donated blood. The nucleic acid targeting mechanism of action enables INTERCEPT treatment to inactivate established transfusion threats, such as hepatitis B and C, HIV, West Nile virus and bacteria, and is designed to inactivate emerging pathogens such as influenza, malaria and dengue. Cerus currently markets and sells the INTERCEPT Blood System for both platelets and plasma in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Middle East and selected countries in other regions around the world. The INTERCEPT red blood cell system is in clinical development. See <http://www.cerus.com> for more information.

INTERCEPT and the INTERCEPT Blood System are trademarks of Cerus Corporation.

This press release contains forward-looking statements. Any statements contained in this press release that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, statements relating to the market potential for the INTERCEPT Blood System and customer acceptance of INTERCEPT products. These forward-looking statements are based upon the company's current expectations. Actual results could differ materially from these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including, without limitation, risks associated with market acceptance of the INTERCEPT Blood System, as well as other risks detailed in the Cerus' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including in Cerus' annual report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on May 6, 2011. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release. Cerus does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events, changed assumptions or otherwise.



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