A WORD WITH

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cerbios
Fostering Value through Innovation®

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Cerbios has over 40 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry and is specialized in the development and manufacture of both chemical and biological APIs. Cerbios continues to be provider of many long-established products, at the same time the company is investing in several other services. What are Cerbios' core strengths and values?
Cerbios was quick to foresee the rise in the importance of offering comprehensive services for APIs along the drug products different stages, and thus, over its 45-year journey in the pharma world, Cerbios has been investing heavily in API-related R&D and manufacturing capabilities. In addition to an extensive portfolio of API-related products, with growing focus over the years toward highly active APIs (HPAPIs), Cerbios also offers its advanced CDMO services and broad project management expertise to help clients overcoming their clinical and/or production hurdles.
Our long-standing history in the pharma business, combined with our customer and innovation-driven work culture, makes us a unique partner that offers CDMO services comparable to those of big pharmaceutical companies while retaining the ability to make every customer feel special.

Our attitudes and behavior are inspired by four values which create our own identity and successfully continue our history: Responsibility, Quality, Reliability and Collaboration. These values have been modernized over the years but were already present in the DNA of the founders and the various generations of shareholders, managers and employees who preceded us and created the company we know today.

Our customers appreciate in particular: the commitment to an open and constructive communication, the responsive and rapid decision-making, the continuous investment in new technologies and the high competencies to meet each need.
The above-mentioned approach is essential to meet the rapidly changing requirements of our customers. With experience, dedication, and success in serving the global pharmaceutical industry, we are proud to continue to innovate by pursuing a long-term strategy and partnership approach.

The recent years have witnessed the rising of the Reshoring phenomena, which can be defined as the return to Europe of companies that had previously relocated activities to, for example, Asian countries. Do you think the Reshoring is affecting or will affect Cerbios?
First, let me anticipate that the current situation has not made any impact on our own supply chain in terms of quality and availability; Cerbios has currently limited its dependence for raw materials on overseas countries. This was also confirmed during and after the recent pandemic where we had no major supply difficulties.

On the other side, reshoring represents an opportunity for Cerbios. With our current and future know-how and infrastructure, Cerbios definitively represents a viable alternative for those pharmaceutical companies who want to bring their APIs and strategic services back to EU.

In fact, we are experiencing a significant increase in requests even for CDMO activities, including those for early-stage processes where our clients recognize the importance of having a well-established and capable partner based in Switzerland for their short and long term programs.

In your Sustainability Report you comment, "We are aware that business cannot succeed if they do not commit to protecting the environment and creating shared values in the communities where they operate". In short, how are you contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations?
The constant delivery of safe and sustainable services is Cerbios's core pillar. Cerbios, indeed, focuses on prioritizing safety and sustainability over merely addressing the challenges. For instance, the company is continually striving to implement greener technologies and processes that produce significantly lower hazardous waste material. In this context, we are making further investments in new tanks and processes to collect and separate the exhausted solvents, resulting in reduced waste and increased recycling.

It is undeniable that the recent rising cost of energy has also increased environmental awareness from an economic point of view. This has prompted us to accelerate new projects in the environmental field and contribute to the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations. We are currently focusing on two projects: we are both investing in approx. 5'000 m^2 of photovoltaic panels and recovering passive heat, treating it with a heat pump and reusing it for heating purposes. The combination of these projects leads to a 40% reduction of natural gas used and to a reduction of 600 t/year of CO_2 emissions.
As an additional benefit, this will also enable us to reduce the risk of business interruption due to energy contingency.

Cerbios is one of the front-runners and a recognized partner for the development and manufacturing of Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADC), providing the great advantage of having all the components (toxin, payloads, mAbs and bioconjugation) produced in a single site. Could you elaborate on what CDMO services you can supply on ADC manufacturing?
Cerbios combines process development with manufacturing capabilities to provide a truly end-to-end service that improves effectiveness without compromising the speed and efficiency of clinical trials. Cerbios has consolidated its focus on ADCs as one of its core businesses in its PROVEO division that extends its capacity with the alliance with leading companies as *AGC Biologics*, for large scale manufacturing of mAbs and *Oncotec* for fill-finish services. We therefore have the capabilities to serve small to large Pharma Companies and support their programs from very early stage up to commercial scale for each of the component of an ADC. From a production standpoint, the company has two fully independent cGMP manufacturing facilities for cytotoxic and non-cytotoxic bioconjugates. For the toxin and toxin-linker part, we are now expanding our existing capacity with the ongoing construction of a new manufacturing unit which will host two separate manufacturing lines specifically designed for this type of molecules. This unit will include all the state-of-the-art technologies that are necessary for the manufacturing of these more and more complex molecules, from both process and engineering perspectives.

What are the key milestones Cerbios has achieved until now? What are the strategies you envisage for future investments in your CDMO services?
Cerbios opened its doors back in the early 1930s, when the founders envisioned a company to serve the burgeoning pharma sector in Southern Switzerland. Subsequently, mid 1970s, deep biological and chemical process capabilities were added to Cerbios' portfolio. Since then, the company has grown to expand its offerings in line with the changing pharmaceutical arena, leading Cerbios to focus on the development, manufacturing, and commercialization of HPAPIs and ADCs. Presently, the company's flagship CDMO services include its three-decade R&D on HPAPI and its leading antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) development and manufacturing capabilities.

In 2021 we completed and got SwissMedic approval for a new HPAPI unit, which allows us to improve our manufacturing capacities up to 30 Kg/batch on different lines for cytotoxic and no-cytotoxic products.

Furthermore, as anticipated, we are now advanced in the construction of a new building which will have two complete lines for HPAPI manufacturing, primarily dedicated to ADC's payloads and cytotoxic APIs. This new plant is planned to be operational in Q1 2023.

We have recently also opened new R&D units, which increased by 50% the R&D capabilities for HPAPIs chemical development and doubled the capacity for R&D analytical services.

For our future expansion we recently bought a neighboring land. Our intention is to double our ADCs capacities investing in a new hub to expand Cerbios' commitment to provide best-in-class bioconjugation services for our partners worldwide.