SUMMARY
Mercachem is an independent, privately held, contract research company located in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Founded in 1997, Mercachem employs nearly 110 people, almost 50% of whom hold post-graduate degrees in chemistry. Mercachem delivers fully integrated exclusive (medicinal) organic, synthetic and process chemistry services to support research and development programs at companies across the globe, as well as academic institutions and research institutes.
When clients have specific problems or challenges, they turn to Mercachem to find solutions. Our process research services focus on the development of efficient production processes for selected drug candidates. Among Mercachem’s major strengths is that it has the equipment and knowledge necessary to synthesize compounds — ranging from milligrams or scaling up to a kilogram — often finding novel approaches.

**Business challenge**
This leading contract research organization makes quality one of its top priorities and looks for innovative, cost-effective and time-efficient ways to deliver what its client base needs.

**Solution**
Offering deeply indexed, experimentally validated information, Reaxys helps Mercachem develop optimal synthesis routes for its clients, as well as maintain stringent quality controls. Reaxys provides valuable insights and fosters the creativity necessary to drive innovation forward, resulting in the realization of time and cost efficiency.

**Speaking about the Reaxys experience at Mercachem, Dr. Meulemans recounts the following:**
Quality is one of our key concerns. And quality monitoring is implemented right from the beginning of the process, with preparation of project quotes for submission to potential customers. Next to this we review work from other departments to see if quotes being prepared are up to our standards, that best practices are always followed and that synthesis plans are valid.

“Reaxys is the most effective way forward for us. Without Reaxys as a key information resource, I might be forced to spend a week in the library or face the prospect of repeating work that’s already been done.”

For us Reaxys is the first point of access to the outside world. It brings definite benefits to our workflow process compared to other ways of obtaining data. It’s what we turn to first, particularly for reaction data.

At the beginning of a project we can spend perhaps as much as 50% of the time consulting databases like Reaxys. We are able to conduct very broad searches that produce comprehensive data sets.

“We know we can rely on Reaxys to support this process because we’re confident that we’re working with the best routes and conditions.”

Whether we’re preparing a quote or conduction the research itself, Reaxys helps us with synthesis and reaction planning. Reaxys is built up from the reactions point of view.

“We check to see if the structure is already known and look at starting materials, which are easy to locate using the commercial availability feature.”

“Reaxys helps our chemists to be more creative and efficient in the lab and thus provide a higher output to our clients.”

— Tommi Meulemans, PhD, Project Manager, Organic Synthesis
When synthesis problems are encountered, we can search to see if there are similar known conditions in Reaxys. Using the most promising results, we look at the literature.

“Reaxys thinks and works like chemists do. So it’s easy for most chemists to find the information they need. Simply stated, it’s organized the same way as my brain. The filtering, layout and integrated patent information are particularly useful for us.”

Here’s a perfect example of how Reaxys supports our work. We had spent over two months preparing compounds and were able to produce only milligrams. When a Reaxys update furnished us with a reaction we hadn’t known about previously it showed us an easier way to produce the compounds.

Using Reaxys throughout the trial period clearly demonstrated that it fits our company’s needs.

Reaxys is perfect as a ‘play to learn’ information tool. It is extremely easy to use, even for beginners, and we have unlimited access for simultaneous users.

Outcome
Using information from Reaxys, Mercachem is able to find ideas for almost all synthetic challenges. Turning these ideas into practice is one of the key strengths of Mercachem.

“It took only two weeks to be able to work on a larger scale to produce 200 grams. That’s a time and cost win!”

“It’s the most suitable in terms of content and functionality and the pricing is competitive”

– TOMMI MEULEMANS, PHD, PROJECT MANAGER, ORGANIC SYNTHESIS
LEARN MORE

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