Press release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ONTOFORCE and ZS partner to offer an optimized end-to-end service for early drug research and development**

**Ghent, Belgium and Evanston, Illinois, USA – 27 April 2023**

ONTOFORCE, a leading provider of data and knowledge technology for life sciences, and ZS, a global management consulting and technology firm, have announced a new strategic partnership. The partnership will enable ZS to deploy ONTOFORCE’s flagship product, DISQOVER, when working with clients in biomedical research application areas, such as target and drug screening and lead optimization. Within these application areas, ZS will be able to utilize DISQOVER to support clients in optimizing their research and development operations with multiple use cases, including target identification, omics data analysis, and biomarker selection, among others.

DISQOVER is a data and knowledge platform developed specifically for the life sciences sector that seamlessly connects vast amounts of data for more efficient research and data management. Drawing on semantic technology and an ontology-based knowledge graph, DISQOVER is optimized for data search and exploration. Uniting the capabilities of DISQOVER with ZS’s deep knowledge of ontology creation and data transformation using semantic web standards will complement the professional services offered by ZS for clients in early drug research and development. By enhancing the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of data exploration and analysis through use of DISQOVER, the partnership will also support joint clients in their journey of adopting the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) data principles.

*“We are excited to be joining forces with ZS*,” says Valerie Morel, CEO of ONTOFORCE. “*Their expertise combined with the DISQOVER platform and the value it creates will provide clients with a unique combination of services that will help them identify new opportunities while staying ahead of the curve during one of the most crucial phases of drug development*.”

"*This partnership will enhance our capacity to address clients’ growing data and knowledge management needs,”* says Bruce Press, principal at ZS*. “For example, on a recent client project, ZS worked with ONTOFORCE to accelerate the exploration of novel biomarkers in oncology multi-omics data sets."*

To commence their partnership, ONTOFORCE and ZS recently co-hosted a live webinar on optimizing multi-omics research, a topic relevant to many biopharmaceutical organizations that utilize omics data in their drug development operations. The webinar focused on challenges and best practices around managing omics data and provided insight into the tools being leveraged by global life sciences and biopharmaceutical companies to optimize multi-omics data management and research. A recording of the webinar can be accessed [here](https://www.ontoforce.com/webinar/optimize-your-multi-omics-research-data-management-challenges-and-best-practices).

**About ONTOFORCE:**

ONTOFORCE helps life sciences organizations accelerate research and drug development for improved patient outcomes by unlocking hidden insights from data. Founded on semantic technology and an ontology-based knowledge graph, their flagship product, DISQOVER, is a data and knowledge platform developed specifically for the life sciences industry. DISQOVER seamlessly connects an organization’s internal, siloed data with licensed data and public data in one easy-to-use, customizable platform, enabling efficient data exploration and analysis.

DISQOVER has over 10,000 users across the globe and is deployed by many leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Users include scientific researchers, bioinformaticians, data scientists, and many other roles.

ONTOFORCE is headquartered in Ghent, Belgium and has a secondary office in the United States in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Learn more about ONTOFORCE at [ontoforce.com](http://ontoforce.com/) and try DISQOVER at [disqover.com](http://disqover.com/).

**About ZS:**

ZS is a management consulting and technology firm focused on transforming global healthcare and beyond. We leverage our leading-edge analytics, plus the power of data, science and products, to help our clients make more intelligent decisions, deliver innovative solutions and improve outcomes for all. Founded in 1983, ZS has more than 12,000 employees in 35 offices worldwide. To learn more, visit <https://www.zs.com/>or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ZSAssociates)and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/zs-associates/mycompany/).

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