

Press Release



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Cenix BioScience, Applied Biosystems and Dresden University to create a New Facility for Proteomics Profiling of RNAi and Drug Effects in Human Cells

Dresden, Germany, October 23rd, 2006 – Cenix BioScience GmbH (Dresden), Applied Biosystems (NYSE:ABI) an Applera Corporation business, and the Biotechnology Centre (Biotec) of the Technische Universität Dresden (TUD) today announced a collaboration to establish a new joint facility to pioneer the convergence of two of the most powerful research methodologies driving pharmaceutical drug discovery today: functional genomics and proteomics.

The new facility will enable scientists from the three organizations to develop and deliver novel research tools and methodologies that enable more detailed and probative analyses of the cellular functions of therapeutically-relevant genes. As such, this work promises to improve the predictive value of early pre-clinical drug development, ultimately reducing the risks of unwanted side effects from future medicines. A German federal grant of *1.2 Million Euros* has been issued to support the efforts of this two-year project through the BioChance Plus grant program.

The three partners bring complementary core competencies to the project. Cenix BioScience is a globally recognized specialist in advanced, cell-based applications of RNA interference (RNAi), a breakthrough gene silencing technology for the discovery and functional characterization of novel therapeutic target genes and drug candidates. Applied Biosystems, a leading global provider of life sciences technology, contributes integrated genetic and proteomic systems technology as well as RNAi reagents. The Biotec centre of the Technische Universität Dresden combines dynamic academic training programs with interdisciplinary research in biotechnology.

The two-year project will stretch the limits of today's most advanced technologies for analyzing gene function and drug action through cellular phenotyping, i.e. the detection and measurement of changes in the behavior of living cells after the application of pharmaceutical agents or other treatments that modulate gene expression. Among the latter, RNAi-based gene knock-down has recently emerged as the most powerful functional genomic method for harnessing the full power of the completed Human Genome Project, using genome sequences to drive assays of gene function and for predicting the effects of future inhibitory drugs. Until now, the broadest, highest content phenotyping approaches could only probe the so-called transcriptome level of gene expression, whereby cDNA microarrays have enabled measurements of thousands of gene transcripts simultaneously. However, in order to truly understand the full complexity of gene function, phenotypes must be examined at the level of the final, functional gene product: the protein. Despite the success of high content microscopy-based assays, broad proteome-level profiling has remained much less developed, primarily due to inherent limitations of antibody-based approaches. The present project will seek to overcome these limitations by developing broad, quantitative surveys of protein levels in RNAi- and drug-treated cells using antibody-independent, mass spectrometry-based analyses.

This initiative represents a new effort by Cenix in its continuing mission to strengthen and broaden the discovery potential of RNAi-based experimentation through high-resolution phenotypic analyses. Cenix will integrate the newly developed capabilities within its leading range of advanced RNAi-based research service programs for target discovery, target validation and drug mode of action analyses.

"This is the natural next step in high content analysis not only for RNAi experiments, but also for studying therapeutic drug effects and a wide variety of other experimental strategies common to both basic and applied research", notes Christophe Echeverri, Ph.D., CEO/CSO of Cenix.

Technologies for the collaboration from Applied Biosystems will include mass spectrometry systems, iTRAQ protein labeling reagents, customized TaqMan gene expression assays, and its Ambion range of RNAi knock-down reagents. Applied Biosystems' contributions to the project will be coordinated from its Science Centre Europe, located in Darmstadt, Germany.

"Applied Biosystems has a 25-year history of collaborating with leading researchers in academia and industry on a global basis," said Lars Holmkvist, Applied Biosystems president for Europe. "We are confident that this collaboration in Europe will enable significant innovative advances in cell biology and for marker discovery and validation in the pharmaceutical industry."

This collaboration is a further manifestation of the strong industry-academic cooperation being fostered within Dresden's growing life science research community. The new facility will be located within the Dresden Bio-Innovation Centre, adding further strength to the existing Biotec research group for Proteomics now led by Prof. Bernard Hoflack. Prof. Hoflack joined the Biotec/TUD in 2003 after holding previous positions at Washington University (St. Louis, USA), the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (Heidelberg, Germany) and the Pasteur Institute (Lille, France).

"We are proud to demonstrate again the pivotal role of the Biotec for connecting scientific, social and economic interests in the Dresden life science research community," said Professor Hoflack. "As a researcher focused on bone biology and osteoporosis, I welcome this cooperation with industrial partners to help accelerate and enhance our basic research efforts, facilitating their translation towards future therapeutic applications."

About Cenix BioScience GmbH

Cenix BioScience GmbH is a pioneer and leader in high throughput (HT), genome-driven applications of RNA interference (RNAi) for the discovery and validation of new therapeutic drug targets. Founded in 1999 as the first biotechnology company specializing exclusively in HT-RNAi, Cenix has accumulated unparalleled depth and breadth of experience in this field, combining high content phenotypic analyses in a wide range of human and rodent cells with industry-leading genome-wide siRNA libraries. Having successfully completed major projects in basic and applied fields including oncology, as well as cardiovascular, metabolic, and infectious diseases, Cenix offers its unique expertise to industry and academic researchers through research and consulting services. Please contact Cenix or visit the company's web site www.cenix-bioscience.com for more information.

About Applied Biosystems Corporation and Applied Biosystems

Applied Biosystems Corporation consists of two operating groups. The Applied Biosystems Group serves the life science industry and research community by developing and marketing instrument-based systems, consumables, software, and services. Customers use these tools to analyze nucleic acids (DNA and RNA), small molecules, and proteins to make scientific discoveries and develop new pharmaceuticals. Applied Biosystems' products also serve the needs of some markets outside of life science research, which we refer to as "applied markets," such as the fields of: human identity testing (forensic and paternity testing); biosecurity, which refers to products needed in response to the threat of biological terrorism and other malicious, accidental, and natural biological dangers;

and quality and safety testing, for example in food and the environment. Applied Biosystems is headquartered in Foster City, CA, and reported sales of over \$1.9 billion during fiscal 2006. The Celera Genomics Group is primarily a molecular diagnostics business that is using proprietary genomics and proteomics discovery platforms to identify and validate novel diagnostic markers, and is developing diagnostic products based on these markers as well as other known markers. Celera Genomics maintains a strategic alliance with Abbott Laboratories for the development and commercialization of molecular, or nucleic acid-based, diagnostic products, and it is also developing new diagnostic products outside of this alliance. Through its genomics and proteomics research efforts, Celera Genomics is also discovering and validating therapeutic targets, and it is seeking strategic partnerships to develop therapeutic products based on these discovered targets. Information about Applera Corporation, including reports and other information filed by the company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, is available at www.applera.com, or by telephoning 800.762.6923. Information about Applied Biosystems is available at www.appliedbiosystems.com.

About Technische Universität Dresden (TUD) and the Biotechnology Centre (Biotec)

The Technische Universität Dresden (TUD) dates back to the Technische Bildungsanstalt Dresden, founded in 1828 and, thus, ranks among the oldest technical-academic educational establishments in Germany. The TUD has gained its excellent reputation above all through achievements in engineering and the natural sciences. Key aspects of the TUD research profile are regenerative medicine and molecular bioengineering for instance. Close contact between companies, professors and students forms the basis for cooperation, without which the establishment of important industries in Dresden during recent years would hardly have been possible. The Biotechnology Centre (Biotec) of the TUD is a unique interdisciplinary centre focusing on research and teaching in molecular bio-engineering by integrating and combining molecular and cellular biology with medicine, biophysics, material science, engineering, and bioinformatics www.biotec.tu-dresden.de.

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