

RNAX

PRESS RELEASE

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RNAX Announces Distribution Agreement for Japan

Berlin, March 2004 –

RNAX announced today the signing of a distribution agreement for RNAX' services related to the validation of siRNA oligonucleotides and genetic targets based on RNA interference technology. Under the terms of the agreement Funakoshi will act as exclusive agent for RNAX in Japan, and promote RNAX' services in the Japanese market. Financial details of the agreement were not disclosed.

The collaboration is based on a technology platform developed by RNAX that allows to validate siRNA oligos and genetic targets for experimental and therapeutic use. Supported by fully customize able automation technology RNAi is employed to specifically inhibit gene expression.

"We are happy to be able to collaborate with Funakoshi to enter the very interesting Japanese market. Experience has shown that local presence of native experts who are familiar with the customs in the given country plays a key role in successfully operating at a foreign market." commented Joerg Poetzsch, Chief Executive Officer of RNAX. "We are looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial collaboration with Funakoshi."

About RNAX

RNAX is a functional genomics service company. RNAX' know-how is based on many years of research and development of high-throughput validation technologies using RNA interference at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology. RNAX offers its customers automated, and thus rapid and cost effective validation of siRNAs and targets. RNAX was founded by scientists of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin in December 2002. www.RNAX.de

About Funakoshi

Funakoshi is one of the largest distributors of bio-research reagents in Japan. It deals not only reagents but also apparatus, instruments and works as an agent for many kinds of contract services. Funakoshi sells many kinds of siRNA related products. Funakoshi can enlarge its scope of products and services for siRNA, becoming RNAX' exclusive agent in Japan. www.funakoshi.co.jp

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