

PRESS RELEASE

Geneservice Ltd and RNAX GmbH launch PhenoFiler™

A unique service platform for Gene Discovery and Validation

15 May, 2006: Geneservice Limited (GSL) Cambridge, UK, the leading contract research organisation and biological resource centre and RNAX GmbH (RNAX), Berlin, Germany, a company specialized in RNAi validation technology, announced today the launch of their new mRNA expression PhenoFiler™ service platform. This new platform brings together both companies unique expertise to create a single platform for gene discovery and validation.

Under the terms of the agreement RNAX provides GSL and its customers with *in vitro* si- and shRNA validation technology to complement GSL's gene expression profiling and network analysis service, and *vice versa*. PhenoFiler™ will provide researchers with a complete solution for comprehensively profiling tens of thousands of genes and then immediately screening for molecular or cellular phenotypes in a co-ordinated set of experiments.

RNAX has developed a robust automated platform for the customized, rapid and cost effective validation of siRNAs, shRNAs and genetic targets in a broad variety of commonly used cell lines and primary cells, making the screening, selection and functional validation of si- and shRNAs affordable, even at high numbers of targets. Through a number of partnerships with leading European biotech companies, RNAX makes RNAi technology available to many applications during the target discovery and validation process – all the way from gene expression analysis to *in vivo* validation of more advanced targets.

GSL, a contract research organisation and biological resource centre, recently formed from the UK Medical Research Council that brings with it more than 10 years experience as a national core service laboratory and was one of the first national service providers of mRNA expression analysis in Europe. GSL has also developed novel bioinformatics tools for identifying important relationships between genes, establishing networks based on expression data.

"This agreement gives benefits to both companies: GSL's customers through our one-stop approach will have access to gene silencing technology, and RNAX' customers can take advantage of the full range of GSL's technologies. The customer will not have the need to look for additional providers, and will deal with our two companies as if it was one entity. This will simplify and speed up the service for the customer. Results will be available faster, because our two companies know exactly how to integrate our technologies, commented Joerg Poetzsch, CEO of RNAX.

"We are very pleased to partner with RNAX, as this adds an important new dimension to our contract research capabilities and customer value", said Tom Weaver, CEO of Geneservice.

About Geneservice Ltd

Geneservice Ltd was launched in August 2005 from the UK Medical Research Council and Human Genome Mapping Project, and offers access to high quality genomic products and leading contract research for applications in the life sciences, clinical research and development. For more information visit www.geneservice.co.uk

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About RNAX GmbH

RNAX GmbH is an independent functional genomics research and service company based on the application of RNA interference. RNAX's know-how is based on many years of research and development of reliable high-throughput validation technologies using RNA interference at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin. RNAX offers its customers automated, and thus rapid and cost effective validation of siRNAs, shRNAs and targets. RNAX was founded by scientists of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin in December 2002, and is financed entirely by its founders and through the generation of revenues from a number of renowned companies like Qiagen, Proligo and major international pharmaceutical companies. www.RNAX.de

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