

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Proligo and RNAX Announce Collaboration in the Area of RNAi

Paris and Berlin, April 26, 2004 –

Proligo (CO, USA) and RNAX announced today the signing of a collaboration agreement in the area of RNAi. Under the terms of the agreement, RNAX provides Proligo with access to RNA interference functional validation technology (RNAi). Proligo will employ this technology for the functional validation of proprietary siRNA technologies. Proligo will own the derived results.

The collaboration is based on a technology platform developed by RNAX that validates siRNA oligos and gene targets for experimental and therapeutic use. Supported by automation technology, RNAi is employed to specifically inhibit gene expression.

"We are glad to be able to provide our automated gene knockdown technology to Proligo. Although much work has already been done to improve functionality of siRNA oligos, validation still remains a key issue in the gene knockdown process. Our automated approach helps solve this problem at high speed, in a reliable way and will further improve the use of RNAi technology for specific applications." commented Joerg Poetzsch, Chief Executive Officer of RNAX.

Bruno Poddevin, Proligo Vice President Primers & Probes commented: "Using RNAX's RNAi technology, we anticipate that we will be able to dramatically improve the current synthetic siRNA silencing hit rate: only a single siRNA will be required to silence a gene. This will be a remarkable innovation for our industry, allowing large screening projects to become more affordable. We are very excited by this collaboration with RNAX. Their professionalism will allow us to move much faster on bringing new products to market."

### About Proligo

Proligo is a leading facilitator of innovative products for genetic research. Proligo's expertise spans the genomics development supply chain, from oligonucleotide synthesis reagents to production of oligonucleotides. A subsidiary of Degussa AG, Proligo is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, USA and has manufacturing facilities in France, Germany, USA, Japan, Australia and Singapore.

[www.proligo.com](http://www.proligo.com)

### About RNAX GmbH

RNAX is a functional genomics service company. RNAX's 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 siRNA's and targets. RNAX was founded by scientists of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin in December 2002.

[www.RNAX.de](http://www.RNAX.de)