



Hybrigenics obtains worldwide certification for its proteomics services

Paris, 17 May 2005 -- Hybrigenics, the protein pathway based drug discovery company, has obtained worldwide quality certification for its proteomics services. These include the coveted ISO 9001-2000 European certification, the QMI in the USA and the JQA in Japan.

"Achieving these three certifications is a major step forward for Hybrigenics," said Bart Kwist, the newly-designated CEO of Hybrigenics. "They form part of Hybrigenics' long-term strategy to maintain the company's focus on customer satisfaction and constant improvement in services. Very few biotechnology companies have obtained such a difficult and coveted certification. It will provide added confidence in the quality of the protein data provided by Hybrigenics and enable us to develop our business further."

Hybrigenics launched its proteomics services in September 2003, building on its well-established automated proprietary two-hybrid-in-yeast process developed over the last ten years using Hybrigenics' and Institut Pasteur technology. This fee-for-service activity has achieved rapid market penetration, and has now been used by over 150 academic and industrial groups all over the world.

The company's proteomics services offer the identification of the interacting partners for the customer's protein, the provision of the actual domains involved in the interactions, and statistical scores to evaluate the quality of the results. Among recent enhancements is a computer-based browser, the Protein Interaction Map-Rider ("PIM-Rider"), which integrates all the customer's results and data available about the proteins present in the Protein interaction Map. Clients obtain full publishing and intellectual rights to all results. Interacting protein partner clones are provided for additional fees.

The ISO 9001-2000 and the other certifications resulted from a complex audit of Hybrigenics operations, and are the result of a considerable effort to streamline, document and quality-control all steps of the industrial operations at the Company.

"This is another milestone in the history of Hybrigenics," said Kwist. "For several years now, the Company has applied its platform technologies in functional proteomics to either internal or partnered target and drug discovery programs. In view of the considerable success in automating the process, we have recently completely reviewed our operations in order to obtain the coveted certification, which is a considerable success for our teams which have worked so hard, under the leadership of Dr. Catherine Borg-Capra and Didier Petiteville to insure quality control at every step" added Bart Kwist. "I am truly proud of this remarkable achievement by the Industrial Operations team of Hybrigenics".

About Hybrigenics (www.hybrigenics.com)

Hybrigenics is a protein pathway-based company that identifies and validates new targets and therapeutic molecules by studying protein interactions and phenotypes in human cells. As a major actor in the post-genomic era, the company aims to elucidate the action of proteins, which participate as components of specific complexes or in interacting protein networks (biological pathways). Owing to the fact that most medications act on proteins or are proteins, the Hybrigenics approach makes it possible to shorten the stages between genomics and the development of new medications.

The company has developed platforms for integrating experiments in biological organisms and *in silico* to allow the identification, selection, classification and validation of therapeutic targets.

The strategy of Hybrigenics is to use these platforms on an industrial scale to discover and validate new targets in collaboration with biopharmaceutical companies and to build programs for the development of biomarkers, small molecules and therapeutic antibodies.

Hybrigenics has a combined marketing strategy for the development of products in partnerships between biopharmaceutical companies and internal programs. These programs focus on the fields of infectious disease and cancer.

The company has formed alliances with Incyte, Lynx Therapeutics Inc, Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, Oxford Glycosciences, Servier, XTL Biopharmaceuticals Ltd., Institut Pasteur, and the Institut Curie and French AIDS Agency (ANRS).

Press and analyst contacts

Andrew Lloyd & Associates

Gilles Petitot

gilles@ala.com

Tel: 33 1 56 54 07 00