
PRESS RELEASE

Collaboration of Boehringer Ingelheim and VTU Technology in Technology and Marketing benefits customers with broader services

Ingelheim/Germany and Grambach/Austria, November 11, 2010 – Boehringer Ingelheim, a global leader in biopharmaceutical contract development and manufacture, and VTU Technology, a leading supplier of exclusive technologies and comprehensive services for the development of high-performance *Pichia pastoris* protein expression strains, announced today that they have entered into a global Technology and Marketing collaboration agreement. Under the terms of the non-exclusive agreement, Boehringer Ingelheim will have access to VTU Technology's ready-to-use high expression *Pichia* system in close collaboration with the VTU team for the development and manufacture of therapeutic proteins.

"With a reputation for outstanding innovation, VTU Technology is well positioned to play an important role as a partner in our collaboration," said Professor Dr. Rolf G. Werner, senior vice president of Boehringer Ingelheim's Biopharmaceuticals Division. "This collaboration will bring a proven high-expression *Pichia* technology offering us great value and further flexibility in our contract manufacturing business, while complementing our existing scaffold technology platforms. We believe this collaboration will benefit both our partners and our customers. We look forward to working with the VTU Technology team."

The collaboration agreement is set up to provide the partners' customers with a broader range of contract services. The integrated concept offers customers access to Boehringer Ingelheim's clinical and commercial manufacturing technology along with VTU Technology's proven competence in high-expression technologies and speed in strain development. Compatible technology platforms at VTU Technology and Boehringer Ingelheim allow for a flexible approach and will facilitate smooth technology transfers throughout the development phases.

"We are very proud to have established this agreement with Boehringer Ingelheim," said Dr. Michael Koncar, founder and CEO of VTU Technology. "This collaboration represents an important element of VTU Technology's strategy while reflecting the potential and attractiveness of our expression technology for efficient manufacture of biopharmaceuticals." Michael Koncar added "Our proven ready-to-use high expression *Pichia* system will be still available directly from VTU for clients worldwide. But we are convinced, that through this new Marketing and Technology alliance both companies can look forward to a continued growth of their customer base and in-house contract development business."

About Boehringer Ingelheim

The Boehringer Ingelheim group is one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, it operates globally with 142 affiliates in 50 countries and more than 41,500 employees. Since it was founded in 1885, the family-owned company has been committed for 125 years to researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine.

Today, Boehringer Ingelheim is one of the world's leading companies for contract development and manufacture of biopharmaceuticals. All types of services from mammalian cell line or microbial strain development to final drug production can be delivered within a one-stop-shop concept. Boehringer Ingelheim delivers services for pre-clinical development up to global market supply with a strong commitment to its customers at its manufacturing facilities for mammalian cell culture and microbial fermentation. Boehringer Ingelheim has brought 17 molecules to market and has many years of experience in multiple molecule classes such as monoclonal antibodies, recombinant proteins, interferons, enzymes, fusion molecules and plasmid DNA. Furthermore, high-titer platform technologies for new antibody mimetic formats such as scaffold proteins and antibody fragments are available for the manufacture of customer products.

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About VTU Technology

VTU Technology is a contract research and development company providing fast-track generation of high-performance industrial protein expression strains for biopharmaceuticals and other protein manufacturers. VTU applies its exclusive cutting-edge *Pichia pastoris* protein production platform and offers expertise and services, which span the entire range from gene or sequence to highly productive expression strains and target protein, in minimum time.

VTU Technology is part of VTU Group, a provider of comprehensive technology services with 200 employees and several sites and office across Europe.

VTU Technology's *Pichia pastoris* expression technology is best suited for biologics production and furnishes unrivalled expression titres (>10 g/L). Advanced technologies and elaborate time-saving procedures that maximize both throughput and output combined with exclusive know-how and years of experience in an interdisciplinary team allow the development time from gene or sequence to gram quantities of different proteins (e.g. serum proteins, cytokines, Fabs, fusion proteins, enzymes) to be drastically shortened to only a few weeks.

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