



Press Release

Cenix BioScience and CellCentric Sign Framework Research Agreement for RNAi-Based Target Validation.

Dresden, Germany, March 20, 2008 – Cenix BioScience GmbH (Dresden), the leading specialist in advanced RNA interference (RNAi)-based research services, today announced that it has signed a framework research agreement to support CellCentric Ltd, a biotechnology company unlocking epigenetic control mechanisms, through cell-based validation of novel therapeutic drug targets for oncology.

Cenix will apply its well-established expertise in combining high throughput (HT) applications of RNAi-based gene silencing, the technology behind the 2006 Nobel Prize for Medicine, with high content phenotypic analyses in cultured human cells. The initial project will focus on the *in vitro* validation of several candidate drug targets chosen by CellCentric to offer high therapeutic anti-cancer potential. Multi-parametric microscopy-based assays developed by Cenix using the Cellenger image analysis platform from Munich-based Definiens, will be adapted to generate detailed insights into the cellular functions and loss-of-function phenotypes of analyzed genes across multiple cell lines. Such RNAi datasets, now widely favored throughout the industry, offer a highly predictive and cost-effective basis for discovering and prioritizing targets for therapeutic drug development in a wide range of disease fields.

"We expect that our combination of cutting-edge RNAi with high content cell-based analyses will offer an ideal strategy for advancing the characterization of such promising target candidates," said Dr. Christophe Echeverri, CEO/CSO of Cenix. "We look forward to providing our colleagues at CellCentric with rich, detailed datasets to facilitate their prioritization process in the most cost-effective and probative way possible."

About Cenix BioScience GmbH

Cenix BioScience GmbH is a pioneer and global leader in the convergence of high throughput (HT), genomics-driven applications of RNA interference (RNAi) with high content, multi-parametric cell-based assays. Founded in 1999 as the first biotechnology company specializing in HT-RNAi, Cenix has accumulated unparalleled depth and breadth of experience in this field, using human and rodent cell models in a wide range of disease indications, including oncology, atherosclerosis, diabetes, obesity, neurodegenerative disorders and infectious diseases such as malaria. Cenix offers its unique expertise to industry and academic researchers through fully customizable research and consulting services, focusing on the discovery and validation of novel therapeutic drug targets and the analysis of drug mechanisms of action. Please contact Cenix or visit the company's web site www.cenix-bioscience.com for more information.

About CellCentric Ltd.

CellCentric is a biotechnology company focused on epigenetics. From a worldwide network of over 20 leading laboratories and Institutions in the space, the company identifies, prioritises and develops novel epigenetic targets, assays and tools. For further information see: www.cellcentric.com

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