



Press Release

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Xantos Biomedicine integrates Evotec Technologies' high content imaging reader Opera™ into its cDNA transfection technology XantoScreen™

Munich and Hamburg, Germany, September 2, 2004 – Evotec Technologies GmbH (Evotec), a supplier of innovative tools and technologies for life sciences based in Hamburg, Germany, and Xantos Biomedicine AG, a functional biology and drug discovery company based in Munich, Germany, today announced their partnership which covers the integration of Evotec's high content imaging reader Opera™ into Xantos cell-based cDNA and protein screening platform XantoScreen™.

Evotec's **Opera™** platform provides high content analysis at ultra high-throughput. First demonstrated in drug screening, it ideally complements other high throughput platforms (e.g. target validation systems) that need high or ultra-high throughput measurements to rapidly perform novel cellular assays.

Xantos offers its proprietary and unique technology **XantoScreen™** for the discovery and functional validation of novel targets on a genome-wide basis. The system enables to perform cDNA transfection studies in a high throughput and fully automated environment. Individual cDNAs or proteins can be combined with different cell systems and compounds to identify targets, ligands, receptors, compounds or pathways.

The combination of Opera™ and XantoScreen™ will provide a unique high throughput screening system that combines biological transfection assays with high content confocal microscopy.

"We are very happy about the collaboration with Evotec Technologies and are convinced that this alliance opens significant benefits to our customers," **stated Stephan Wehselau, CEO at Xantos Biomedicine.**

Michael Kazinski, CTO at Xantos added: "The integration of Evotec's Opera™ system into our robotics structure broadens the set of applications on both technologies. Cellular read-outs using the combination of cDNA transfection and high content confocal microscopy are a powerful tool in drug development and will be a significant support for many different lifescience programmes."

“The Opera™ platform has proven to be the ultimate uHTS imaging reader for cellular assays. In addition to the discovery of novel drugs we now extend its application portfolio to new ways to discover and validate novel targets. This is strikingly demonstrated by Xantos’ decision to integrate the Opera™ into its XantoScreen™ system”, **comments Guenter Bauer, CBO of Evotec Technologies.**

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About Xantos Biomedicine AG - www.xantos.de

Xantos Biomedicine AG is a functional biology and drug discovery company that is focusing on the identification and validation of disease relevant human genes in the areas of cancer and metabolic diseases.

Studies on disease relevant biological functions are carried out rapidly by screening for phenotypic changes caused by increase of gene function in disease relevant human cells. For this Xantos has established the proprietary high-throughput, fully automated cellular gene-transfection and assay system XantoScreen™ that is used to:

- Identify and functionally validate novel drug targets,
- Discover novel disease relevant secreted and druggable proteins,
- Conduct contract research screening projects.

XantoScreen™ enables the fully automated and standardized functional analysis of 100,000 to 300,000 genes per month in cell systems. Xantos has one of the world's largest full-length human cDNA collections (35,000 clones), several high quality cDNA libraries from various human tissues and several cell systems available for high throughput analysis. The Company uses its technology for its own discovery program in cancer and metabolic diseases. Xantos focuses on the development of therapeutics based on secreted proteins involved in angiogenesis of cancer cells, in differentiation of fat cells and in the induction of insulin resistance. Xantos has already identified several disease relevant new targets and proteins and is searching for collaboration partners. Xantos is offering its technology, the human cDNA collections, libraries and functional cell assay systems on a fee-for-service basis for technology-driven interactions.

About Evotec Technologies - www.evotec-technologies.com

Evotec Technologies GmbH (ET) is a subsidiary of Evotec OAI focussed on technology development and instrumentation for life sciences laboratories. The Company provides state-of-the-art automated and miniaturised processes that result in extremely high data content and quality output by seamlessly integrating hardware, software and bioware modules. ET's current portfolio comprises its established uHTS EVOscreen® system (for large pharmaceutical companies) and a product line of innovative bench-top instruments (Opera™, Clarina, Elektra), consumables and reagents. These solutions are based on its broad patent portfolio, scientific excellence - from drug discovery to diagnostics - and technical know-how. ET's particular strengths are in detection and analysis in molecular dimensions, liquid handling of minimal volumes and high-speed interpretation methods and software. Evotec Technologies employs 80 people, primarily at its main site in Hamburg, Germany. Subsidiaries are located in Düsseldorf and Berlin.

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