



PRESS RELEASE

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ENIGMA DIAGNOSTICS ANNOUNCES A EUROPEAN COMMISSION AWARD OF €3MILLION TO FUND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POINT OF CARE PLATFORM FOR THE RAPID DIAGNOSIS OF INFLUENZA INFECTIONS

A fully automated, portable solution for in-clinic and out-reach influenza testing

Porton Down, UK, Enigma Diagnostics, the life sciences company developing rapid molecular diagnostics and detection systems, announces a €3 million award from the European Commission Framework 7 programme to the RANGER consortium. The award will fund the development and validation of a fully automated, low cost system for the rapid diagnosis of influenza infections and subtypes.

The RANGER consortium, which is coordinated by Enigma Diagnostics, comprises leading technology companies including Applied Biosystems, Sagentia, Tico Europe, Bruhn Newtech Group, Bioplastics BV and PERA who will contribute to the development of the instrument and assays. The consortium also includes the Health Protection Agency, the UK's national reference laboratory for influenza diagnostics, and the Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health who will evaluate and validate the system.

The system will be based on Enigma's proprietary and fully-automated instrumentation technology, which integrates sample preparation with real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect viral RNA in a full range of clinical samples. The simple-to-use, portable system will provide rapid results direct to medical staff in a near-patient or out-reach environment in both the developed and developing world.

By providing laboratory standard, high specificity and sensitivity PCR results in a decentralised setting, the system will advance the diagnosis of early stage viral infections and the surveillance of disease outbreaks.

Enigma is also separately developing real-time PCR-based diagnostics systems targeting chlamydia, gonorrhoea and other sexually transmitted infections.

John McKinley, Chairman of Enigma Diagnostics, said: "The award of this grant and the strength of our consortium partners is a great endorsement of Enigma's technology. It is also a strategically important milestone for the company as it demonstrates the utility of our real time PCR in what is an extremely challenging area of diagnosis. We are confident we will be able to deliver a system that rapidly and simply delivers laboratory quality results at the point of care"

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About Enigma Diagnostics

Enigma Diagnostics Limited is a private UK based company developing the next generation of rapid diagnostic instrument platforms for the detection and identification of infectious organisms, such as bacteria and viruses, in clinical, environmental and biological samples.

Enigma's innovative and proprietary technology combines the speed and sensitivity of real-time PCR (polymerase chain reaction) with the simplicity needed for field-based and point-of-care tests. The Company is targeting a number of multi-billion pound markets, core among which are the clinical, defence and homeland security, and veterinary markets. Enigma's commercialisation strategy is to maximise revenues from a continuous flow of market leading rapid diagnostic point-of-care and in-field instrument and assay platforms, derived from its broad Intellectual Property portfolio of issued and filed patents. Enigma will build an in-house sales and marketing capability to direct distribution of its bespoke products and partner with market leaders where global penetration of markets is required.

Enigma has an exclusive licence from the Defence Science Technology Laboratory to a portfolio of patents which represent over 15 years of UK Ministry of Defence funded research. Enigma's own R&D activities have added additional patents and design rights based upon its proprietary technologies to generate a portfolio of over 45-plus worldwide patents and patent applications dedicated to real-time PCR and wider rapid technologies. All of these patents are granted in a range of core territories such as US, EU and Japan with more extensive filing and grants across a number of other key territories for more information visit www.enigmadiagnostics.com