

SIROCCO

Silencing RNAs: organizers and coordinators of complexity in eukaryotic organisms

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Exiqon Receives the 2008 Frost & Sullivan Growth Strategy Leadership Award

The business research & consulting firm Frost & Sullivan has announced the selection of Exiqon as the recipient of its 2008 Growth Strategy Leadership Award in the molecular diagnostic market. Exiqon was selected for this award for the company's acquisition of Oncotech, a market leader in the field of in vitro therapy selection testing for cancer. The acquisition of Oncotech allowed the two companies to combine resources to become a leading supplier of molecular diagnostic tests based on proprietary miRNA biomarkers.

"Combining the two companies has allowed Exiqon to master a number of the most significant challenges in building a platform for its future molecular diagnostic business in the US," says CEO Lars Kongsbak. "We are dedicated to personalizing the treatment selection for cancer patients. This acquisition increases the likelihood of success and the speed in which new molecular diagnostic products can be marketed by Exiqon" continues Kongsbak; "Our goal is to optimize the use of existing medicine and avoid unnecessary and non-effective treatment."

Through Oncotech, Exiqon markets diagnostic products that enable patients to be tested for resistance to chemotherapies prior to being subscribed treatment (the 'Extreme Drug Resistance-test'). Exiqon has already established itself as one of the market's leading providers of research products for gene expression analysis based on the LNA™ technology.

"Exiqon strategically gained entry into the U.S. cancer molecular diagnostics and allied pharmaceutical services market via its \$45 million acquisition of privately-held Oncotech," explains Frost & Sullivan senior analyst Dr. Sudeep Basu. "The February 2008 all-share-deal also strengthens Exiqon's position in the overall U.S. life sciences research and clinical diagnostics markets."

"Pharmaceutical companies now have a rapidly growing interest in biomarker development and companion diagnostics," continues Exiqon CEO Kongsbak. "Exiqon's proficiency in High Throughput Screening (HTS), together with a Bio-Bank of 150,000 tumor tissue samples at Oncotech, positions Exiqon as a partner-of-choice for pharmaceutical companies."

click [here](#) for Frost & Sullivan press release



SIROCCO BULLETIN:

Thank you to all the partners for their reports this month. They will be used to compile the SIROCCO draft activity report to be submitted to the European Commission before our annual meeting in December. The report form can be found on the partner pages of the SIROCCO website under REPORTING.

<http://www.sirocco-project.eu>

username: sirocco

password: smallrna

Please continue to submit your ideas for the detailed implementation plan for months 25-42 to be included in the draft report. Current workpackages and deliverables can be found on the project website. Login as a partner [username sirocco password smallrna] and click on WORKPACKAGES AND DELIVERABLES.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



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Moxon S, Jing R, Szittyá G, Schwach F, Rusholme Pilcher RL, Moulton V, Dalmay T. Deep sequencing of tomato short RNAs identifies microRNAs targeting genes involved in fruit ripening. *Genome Res*. 2008 Jul 24. [Epub ahead of print]

Bushati N, Cohen SM. microRNAs in neurodegeneration. *Curr Opin Neurobiol*. 2008 Jul 25. [Epub ahead of print]

Bäurle I, Dean C. Differential interactions of the autonomous pathway RRM proteins and chromatin regulators in the silencing of Arabidopsis targets. *PLoS ONE*. 2008 Jul 16;3(7):e2733.

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SIROCCO 2008

The next SIROCCO Annual Meeting will be held 10-12th December 2008
At the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre Hinxton UK
<http://www.wtconference.org/>

The Conference Centre is situated in the Genome Campus - home to the renowned Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the European Bioinformatics Institute. Tours of research facilities for can be arranged during your stay. Accommodation is on the grounds of the genome campus; all bedrooms have direct incoming telephone lines and high-speed ethernet internet connections.

A special one-day meeting on bioinformatics for SIROCCO delegates will be held before the SIROCCO annual meeting on Tuesday 9th December in the Rosalind Franklin Pavilion in the Conference Centre: a dedicated IT Training Room with 20 dual-boot desktop computers (plus a trainer's computer), with two operating systems provided for IT training purposes - either Microsoft Windows 2000 or Red Hat Linux.

More details on this one-day meeting will follow in the next newsletter.

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