



PRESS RELEASE

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Genomics specialist Geneservice announces management buyout from the Medical Research Council

Cambridge, UK – The current management of genomics specialist MRC geneservice today announced it had reached agreement with the UK MRC over a management buyout. The assets and majority of staff of MRC geneservice will be transferred into a new company Geneservice Ltd on August 1st 2005 to be based on the Cambridge Science Park. Under a transitional services agreement however, Geneservice has commenced trading, taking new orders and promoting itself with immediate effect. Geneservice will operate as a genomic reagents provider and continue to offer existing services that include sequencing, genotyping, microarray expression analysis and whole genome amplification.

Geneservice will inherit from the MRC more than 10 years pedigree as a biological resource centre and innovative genomics services provider. The company will occupy a unique position, rapidly identifying potential services and products arising from the multitude of genomics projects worldwide and making them available to the genomic research community. A wide international customer base including leading research centres and pharmaceutical companies has already been built. Geneservice's one-stop service for genomics researchers is highly regarded for its quality, turnaround time and competitive pricing. A new website (www.geneservice.co.uk) with enhanced features will make selection and ordering of products even easier. The continuing mission of Geneservice will be to provide an archiving and distribution portal for emerging genomic reagents, such as bacterial clones and Human DNA samples, generated by academic groups and consortia internationally. The new entity will also provide access to state-of-the-art high throughput technologies for the study of gene expression and gene mapping, including disease gene identification. Likewise, the initial product portfolio includes genomic clones from a wide range of organisms in various formats. The



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Geneservice range of services includes DNA sequencing, micro satellite and SNP genotyping, whole genome amplification and RNA expression profiling.

According to Tom Weaver, CEO, the new company will look to build substantially on existing success: "In addition to maintaining our unique position in the market, we will now have the freedom to invest in new business opportunities as well as further strengthening our quality control and assurance schemes. It is our intention to work closely in partnership with originators to guarantee quality and the widest distribution of emerging resources (such as RNAi and protein expression libraries) into the research community. We also see a growing need for logistical and analytical support, particularly our DNA sequencing and gene expression microarray analysis services. With over 25 highly qualified staff and a clear business opportunity in an expanding market we look forward to August 1 with confidence."

For its part, the MRC welcomed the change. MRC Chief Executive, Professor Colin Blakemore, said today, "The MRC approved the management buy-out at its Council meeting in March 2005. MRC has supported the activities of MRC geneservice for a number of years and it played an important role in ensuring there was widespread access to new biological reagents, tools and services as the UK genomics effort grew. The potential for MRC geneservice to become an independent commercial company was always a possibility that we actively considered. This stage has now been reached and MRC looks forward to working with the new company in the future."

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Notes to editors

Geneservice Limited has been formed in February 2005 to continue the clone distribution and service activities of MRC geneservice. For more information about Geneservice Limited, its products and services log on to the website at www.geneservice.co.uk

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is a national organisation funded by the UK taxpayer. Its business is medical research aimed at improving human health; everyone stands to benefit from the outputs. The research it supports and the scientists it trains meet the needs of the health services, the pharmaceutical and other health-related industries and the academic world. MRC has funded work that has led to some of the most significant discoveries and achievements in medicine in the UK. About half of the MRC's expenditure of approximately £500 million is invested in its 40 Institutes, Units and Centres. The remaining half goes in the form of grant support and training awards to individuals and teams in universities and medical schools. Web site at: www.mrc.ac.uk.