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Agilent to introduce genomics technology in India

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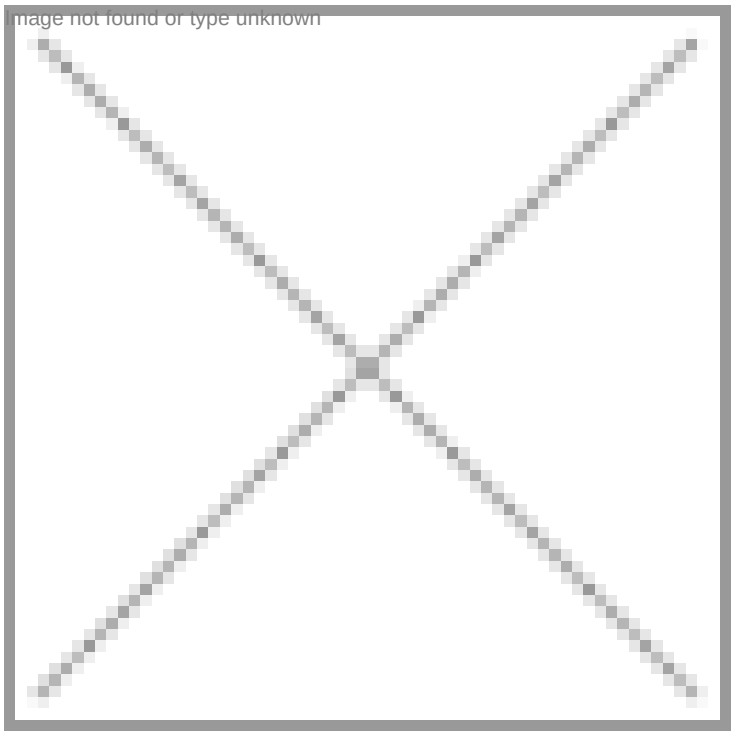

Agilent Technologies Inc has announced plans to introduce its DNA microarray-based genomics solutions into India's growing life sciences market. Agilent currently sells technologies for the chemical, environmental and pharmaceutical manufacturing markets in India, and is a biotech leader there. The company expects to expand its presence into industries such as medical research, drug discovery and agro-biotech.

"Agilent's life sciences and chemical analysis business had double-digit growth in India last year, driven by the country's booming biotechnology, agriculture, information technology and pharmaceuticals industries," said Sanjeev Dhar, country manager for the LSCA business in India. "India is now LSCA's fourth-largest country of business in Asia, and one of the fastest-growing. We expect this growth to continue as we launch our industry-leading solutions for the life sciences sector into areas such as genomics and proteomics research."

BD India donates syringes for vaccination against Tuberculosis

Becton Dickinson India Pvt Ltd (BD India), a part of BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), the global medical technology company headquartered in New Jersey, USA made a donation of its new BD SoloShot LX auto-disable syringe for BCG (Bacille Calmette GuÃ©rin) vaccination against tuberculosis (TB) to the district immunization officer of Rewari, government of Haryana.

Edward J Ludwig, chairman, president and chief executive officer of BD, made this donation to Rewari district of Haryana, which houses the manufacturing plant of BD India. With the efforts of BD, auto-disable syringes will be used for the entire

immunization program in the district. Auto-disable injection devices are specifically designed to prevent the reuse of needles and syringes. Reuse of these devices has been identified as a significant factor in the spread of infectious disease in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Ludwig said, "In 1989, we made a long-term commitment to serve the healthcare market in India. We reinforced this commitment in 1996 with the opening of our manufacturing facility in Haryana and in setting up a clinical marketing organization for promoting best medical practices in India."

"BD has been a pioneer in promoting safe injection for over 15 years. The support to Rewari's immunization program reaffirms our commitment and is a positive step in line with our corporate purpose of helping all people lead healthy lives," he added.

"Chips for metablomics and HPLC-chip are landmark developments"

Dr Rudi Grimm, manager, proteomics market development and Russell Mclnness, application scientist, Life Sciences and Chemical Analysis Group (LSCA), Agilent Technologies, share the latest developments in LSCA.

What are the significant developments in your proteomics unit?

We have introduced products for entire proteomics. Our approach today is to offer integrated biology solutions. We are rapidly moving in the area of metablomics too. We are in the process of introducing chips for metablomics. Agilent has introduced the first high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)-chip/mass spectrometry (MS) system for protein identification. This breakthrough microfluidics-based LC/MS technology is expected to significantly increase the speed, ease and productivity of proteomics research. The first HPLC-Chip available is for proteomics applications, but the technology has potential uses across a wide range of other applications in which LC/MS is used, including pharmaceutical development and manufacturing, combinatorial chemistry, compound analysis, food safety, environmental monitoring and homeland security.

What are the key developments in your genomics portfolio?

Agilent Technologies Inc. has introduced the most up-to-date whole-genome oligonucleotide microarray for the study of the rat, besides human. With probes for more than 41,000 unique genes and transcripts, the Agilent Whole Rat Genome Oligo Microarray provides the broad genome coverage, validated genomic content and sensitivity researchers need to better assess the effect of environmental toxins or drug interactions on cells.

Ch. Srinivas Rao