



24 January 2006

PBL wins £1.9m from Government commercialisation fund in BBSRC-backed bid

PBL is delighted to announced that it has won an award of £1.9m from a UK Government fund designed to turn the best research ideas into commercial reality. The award will help PBL to fund market research, and marketing activity as well as to extend its previously established Technology Development Fund - in particular promoting innovations from the plant, microbial and food science research conducted at BBSRC-sponsored institutes.

Dr Jan Chojecki, Managing Director of PBL, commented, "PBL invests early in emerging technology and offers assistance and advice to all scientists on protecting and commercialising their innovations. We have unique experience and expertise in the areas of plant, microbial and food science. This award will enable us to work with more scientists to transfer their research from the UK research base to commercialisation. Knowledge transfer is key to harnessing the first rate science we have in this country and to develop new products and services that benefit both the economy and the general quality of life in the UK."

The money has come from the £25M Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund operated by the Office of Science and Technology of the Department of Trade and Industry. The BBSRC-backed awards are to PBL, the Rainbow Seed Fund, and Genecom, Edinburgh. With this award and two other bids backed by The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the UK bioscience research community has successfully secured new innovation funding of over £5m.

BBSRC is the UK's principal funder of basic and strategic research across the biosciences and is a major shareholder in PBL. Dr Doug Yarrow, BBSRC Director of Corporate Science, said, "BBSRC is extremely pleased to see its community perform so strongly in competing for commercialisation funds. The UK bioscience community is second only to the US in the world but to create benefits for the country we need to support the development of commercial ideas. The three successful bids will each help the bioscience community to develop its best ideas to market, through initial funding, development and marketing."

The Rainbow Seed Fund secured £2.5M to increase the value of the fund to over £8M. The Fund provides seed financing to help the development of ideas originating in partner organisations to be commercial concepts. The Fund will now be able to accept proposals from more organisations, improving the prospects for developing commercialisation from a larger section of the UK science base.

Genecom is led by the Roslin Institute, Edinburgh and also covers research at the Institute for Animal Health and the Moredun Institute. The three institutes are internationally renowned for their science in animal health, welfare and breeding and the award of almost £1M to Genecom will allow them to increase the commercialisation opportunities of their research.

PBL January 2006