



PBL NEWS



PBL News - Issue 18 - July 2010

PBL reaches 500 Technologies

PBL recently coded its 500th technology, in its 15th year of operation. PBL assesses many more technologies than those that are taken forward to the stage of being given an internal code, so we have screened literally thousands of technologies over the years. As well as the 27 different UK Universities and Institutes that have contributed to these 500 technologies, 15 other countries, over four continents, are represented in the technologies managed by PBL. PBL has invested over \$6 million just in the costs of patent protection on these technologies. Obviously not all the technologies we take on succeed in reaching commercial uptake, but of the technologies we do progress to file patents on, nearly half of them do go on to generate at least some revenues.

We thank our friends in the UK and around the world for entrusting their innovations to our care and we look forward to the next 500!!



IP protection

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PBL Enters Crop Development Partnerships in China

PBL has entered into agreements with the Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOB-CAS), and with the Jilin Academy of Agricultural Sciences (JAAS). IOB-CAS has established a new Centre for Bioenergy which will develop sweet sorghum as a strategic bioenergy crop for China, while JAAS is the national centre for maize transformation and has a long track record of breeding and delivering maize and sorghum varieties for the Chinese market. Under the agreements, IOB-CAS and JAAS will introduce new plant biotechnologies from PBL into maize and sweet sorghum, bring to field testing and ultimately develop new varieties suitable for commercial release in China.

Dr Jan Chojecki, PBL's MD, said "These partnerships represent an excellent mechanism for us to rapidly test in field situations the early stage discoveries emerging from public research in plant science. This is highly complementary to our existing technology transfer activities and as well as leading to new varieties for use in China, it will enable better and earlier datasets to inform commercial uptake decisions elsewhere in the world".

For more information, please contact Dr Jan Chojecki (ajsc@pbltechnology.com).



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Provexis, IFR and PBL Launch Major Collaboration in Heart Health

PBL has signed an agreement with Provexis plc and the Institute of Food Research for a substantial collaborative research and development programme. The partners will develop plant extracts and build on related intellectual property with applications in treatment and reduction of systemic inflammation. PBL and Provexis have previously filed joint patents in the area, and additional background intellectual property will also be licensed by PBL to Provexis, if the first stage of the programme is successful. Provexis discovers and develops scientifically-proven functional food, medical food and dietary supplement technologies and recently obtained approval from European Commission under Art13(5) for its Fruitflow® antithrombotic technology.

For more information, please contact Dr Martin Stocks (martin@pbltechnology.com).

Tech ID: 08.456



Innovation in life sciences

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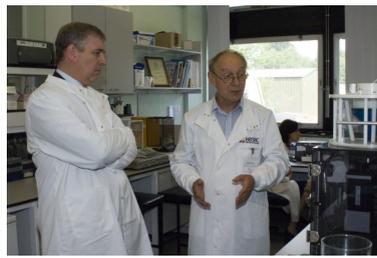


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Royal Visit for the Model Gut



As a long time ambassador for British Industry and Innovation, HRH the Duke of York recently visited Norwich, to see first hand some of the cutting edge projects that have been established on the NRP. The Duke of York visited the Model Gut laboratory at IFR, where he was shown a demonstration of the unique DGM (Dynamic Gastric Model) by co-inventor Richard Faulks, whilst Dr Martin Stocks of PBL explained how the DGM is finding increasing utility within the food and pharmaceutical industries, leading to rapidly expanding commercial interest in the model. After visiting the Model Gut, the Duke went on to see the new BBSRC Genome Analysis Centre, and met representatives of NRP institutions and the BBSRC.



For more information, please contact Dr Martin Stocks (martin@pbltechnology.com).

www.modelgut.com

IP protection

Procarta Founder Wins BBSRC Award

Dr Michael McArthur, the co-founder of the PBL / JIC spin-out Procarta Biosystems, has been named the winner of 'Most Promising Innovator of the Year' award at BBSRC's Innovator of the Year event for his work using novel antibacterials to combat drug-resistant bacterial infections. The award carries with it a prize of £5000.

Procarta is developing products to combat drug resistant bacterial infections, such as MRSA. The central technology uses stretches of DNA sequence as 'decoys' to disrupt the essential genes of bacteria, allowing antibiotics to kill off the bacteria.

For more information, please contact Dr Michael McArthur (mmcarthur@procartabio.com).



www.procartabio.com

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IDna Genetics Collaboration Leads to Paper in SCIENCE

IDna Genetics, the PBL / JIC company that provides genetics diagnostics services, has been collaborating with the University of York, and the work has led to a paper in SCIENCE describing the genetic map of *Artemisia*, and mapping the genes responsible for producing artemisinin, the most effective anti-malarial treatment (Graham *et al*, SCIENCE 2010 Vol 327, 328-331).

IDna provides a range of genetic diagnostics services and advice to public sector researchers, plant breeding companies and other industries applying genetic marker technologies.

For more information, please contact Dr Peter Isaac, CEO of IDna (peter.isaac@idnagenetics.com).



www.idnagenetics.com

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PBL Patent News

97.144 - Banana Streak Virus Promoter - Granted in Canada
WO9943836A1 granted in Canada on 13.04.10 2,321,992. Contact: Dr Lars von Borcke (lars@pbltechnology.com).

99.190 - Detection of Gene Silencing in Mammals - Granted in USA
Special edition PBL News No 17 announced the issue by the USPTO of PBL's patent from the work of Prof Sir David Baulcombe and Dr Andrew Hamilton at The Sainsbury Laboratory, covering the use of short RNAs in the detection of gene silencing in mammals. Contact: Dr Lars von Borcke (lars@pbltechnology.com). Please click [here](#) for a link to Short RNA section on our website.

99.194 - Suppressors of Gene Silencing - Granted in Europe
PBL's patent on suppressors of gene silencing has now also been granted in Europe and will issue as European Patent 1,232,274. The patent has already been granted in many territories including the USA. The invention arose from the research of Professor Sir David Baulcombe, Olivier Voinnet and Andrew Hamilton while working at The Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich, UK. Contact: Dr Lars von Borcke (lars@pbltechnology.com).

02.301 - Model Gut - Granted in Europe
PBL has received notice of allowance from the European Patent Office in respect of its patent application on the Dynamic Gastric Model. This is a major step in establishing the IP platform for this successful project, which is already attracting very wide interest from the food and pharmaceutical industry. Contact: Dr Martin Stocks (martin@pbltechnology.com). Please click [here](#) for a link to the DGM website.

04.353 - High throughput assay for topoisomerase and gyrase inhibitors - Granted in Europe
WO2006/051303 granted in Europe on 06.01.10 1812592. Contact: Dr Martin Stocks (martin@pbltechnology.com).

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