



press release

10th January 2005

NextGen Sciences licences *flashBAC*TM, a break-through technology for protein expression from Oxford Brookes University in collaboration with the Natural Environment Research Council's Centre for Hydrology and Ecology, Oxford.

NextGen Sciences Ltd (Cambridgeshire, UK and Boston, USA) has today announced that it has signed a licence agreement with Oxford Brookes University (Oxford, UK) to commercialise their advanced technology called *flashBAC*, which reduces insect expression timelines by up to 10 days.

flashBAC was developed by researchers at the University for the production of recombinant baculoviruses, which are required for the expression of protein using insect cells. The need for soluble and membrane proteins, high expression levels, and correct post-translational modifications has increased the use of insect expression systems. However, the production of the baculoviruses required for their use is known to be time-consuming, labour-intensive and technically demanding, compared with expression in bacterial hosts.

"*flashBAC* overcomes these issues by removing the need to separate recombinant virus from parental virus. This reduces the technique to a one-step procedure, significantly reducing timelines while maximising protein yields," explained Dr Mark Littlewood, Business Unit Manager for Bio-reagents at NextGen Sciences. "The technology is ideal for researchers requiring just one or a few recombinant baculoviruses, but has also been proven with automated systems to meet high-throughput needs. Furthermore, the kits are affordable and simple to use, which presents an exciting opportunity for protein researchers."

Professor Linda King, co-inventor of *flashBAC* at Oxford Brookes University, commented: "We are delighted to have signed this agreement with NextGen Sciences. The company has an excellent track record of successfully launching novel technologies. With their knowledge of the protein research industry and expertise in expression systems, we are confident that NextGen Sciences is ideally positioned to commercialise *flashBAC*."

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NextGen Sciences are launching flashBAC today at the annual CHI PepTalk meeting in San Diego, California.

Further information can be found at: www.nextgensciences.com

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About NextGen Sciences

NextGen Sciences Ltd is a leading provider of integrated solutions for molecular biology and protein research. The company's advanced technologies fully automate established, complex research techniques, improving results and accelerating discovery. With a team of skilled individuals comprising expert discovery scientists, software and design engineers, NextGen Sciences Ltd is uniquely positioned to rapidly progress technology solutions from design concept to market. The company has a strong track record of launching first to market products and has achieved an international reputation for successfully commercialising technology.

About Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Brookes University is a leading modern university with a reputation for innovation, high quality education and research and strong links to industry. It currently has almost 18,000 full and part-time students from foundation to postgraduate level. The University became the world's first Fairtrade University in 2004. Website: www.brookes.ac.uk

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