

Company Name: Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd.
Representative: Tadao Kurozumi, President & CEO
Securities code: 4549 (TSE 1st Section)

Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd. and Meridian Bioscience, Inc. (U.S.A) signed agreement on the licensing of LAMP technology in the medical field for infectious diseases

Tokyo, Japan – Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd. (Head office in Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, called as Eiken) and Meridian Bioscience, Inc.*¹ (Head office in Cincinnati, Ohio, called as Meridian, President and COO: Mr. John A. Kraeutler) has signed an agreement on the licensing of Eiken's own innovative gene amplification technology (LAMP Method*²) on October 25.

Meridian develops, manufactures, markets and distributes wide range of diagnostic test kits utilizing different assay principles including reagents for the diagnosis of infectious diseases. Conclusion of this license agreement enables Meridian to enter the field of nucleic acid testing market. Meridian expands line of diagnostic test kits for infectious disease market, and looks for expansion of its development capabilities and its business.

To popularize LAMP method in Japan and the world, Eiken is aggressively promoting its licensing business to the companies and research institutes domestic and abroad. With the growing of nucleic acid testing market as a potentiating factor, the recognition of LAMP method to the public can be expected, and with this in mind, the licensing agreement with Meridian is reached.

Meridian will use LAMP technology for the development, manufacturing and sales of clinical diagnostic reagents in the medical field for infectious diseases in 19 countries of North America and Europe.

This is the first licensing agreement with western corporations. Eiken will continue to aim at promoting the popularization of LAMP method in various fields including husbandry, agriculture, food and medicals, and the expansion of nucleic acid testing market.

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*1 [Meridian]

Meridian Bioscience is a fully integrated life science company that manufactures, markets and distributes a broad range of innovative diagnostic test kits, purified reagents and related products and offers biopharmaceutical enabling technologies.

Utilizing a variety of methods, these products provide accuracy, simplicity and speed in the early diagnosis and treatment of common medical conditions, such as gastrointestinal, viral, urinary and respiratory infections. Meridian diagnostic products are used outside of the human body and require little or no special equipment.

The Company's products are designed to enhance patient well-being while reducing the total outcome costs of healthcare. Meridian has strong market positions in the areas of gastrointestinal and upper respiratory infections, serology, parasitology and fungal disease diagnosis. In addition, Meridian is a supplier of rare reagents and specialty biologicals along with proteins and other biologicals used by biopharmaceutical companies engaged in research for new drugs and vaccines.

The Company markets its products to hospitals, reference laboratories, research centers, veterinary testing centers, physician offices and diagnostics manufacturers in more than 60 countries around the world. The Company's shares are traded through Nasdaq's National Market, symbol VIVO.

For further information on Meridian, please visit [http:// www.meridianbioscience.com](http://www.meridianbioscience.com).

*2 [LAMP Method]

"LAMP" which stands for Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification is characterized by its use of four different primers specifically designed to recognize six distinct regions on the target gene and its process being performed at a constant temperature using a strand displacement reaction. Amplification and detection of target gene can be completed in a single step, by incubating the mixture of sample, primers, DNA polymerase with strand displacement activity and substrates at a constant temperature (in the region of 65°C). It provides high amplification efficiency, with DNA being amplified 10^9 - 10^{10} times in 15 - 60 minutes. Because of its high specificity, the presence of the target gene sequence can easily be detected just by judging presence of amplified products.

For further information on "LAMP", please visit Eiken GENOME SITE (<http://loopamp.eiken.co.jp/e/>)