Press release December 18, 2007

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

Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd. and DiaSorin S.p.A. (Itlay) signed License Option Agreement on the licensing of LAMP technology

Tokyo, Japan – Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd. (Head office in Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, called as Eiken) and DiaSorin S.p.A.[*1] (Head office in Saluggia, VC, Italy, called as DiaSorin, CEO: Dr. Carlo Rosa) has signed a License Option Agreement to enter into the licensing of Eiken's own innovative gene amplification technology (LAMP Method[*2]) on December 18.

DiaSorin develops, manufactures, markets and distributes wide range of *in vitro* diagnostic test kits utilizing different assay principles including reagents for the diagnosis of infectious and viral diseases, thyroid pathologies, oncology, fertility testing, etc. Conclusion of this License Option Agreement enables DiaSorin to evaluate to enter into the field of nucleic acid testing market. DiaSorin looks for expansion of line of diagnostic test kits for infectious disease market, 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 DiaSorin is reached. DiaSorin will make feasibility study for certain period and has option to enter into a Technology License Agreement on the use of LAMP technology for the development, manufacturing and sales of clinical diagnostic reagents in the medical field for infectious diseases.

Eiken aims to continue to apply the LAMP method to such fields as medicine, agriculture, food, animal husbandry, environmental protection, and also contribute to the expansion of the genetic testing market.

Contact details

Enquiries should be directed to:

Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd., President's Office
TEL: 03-3813-5405 FAX: 03-3813-2206 e-mail: koho@eiken.co.jp

*1 [DiaSorin]

DiaSorin S.p.A., an international player in the market for in vitro diagnostics, develops, produces and markets reagent kits for clinical laboratory diagnostics. The DiaSorin Group comprises 12 companies based in Europe, the United States, Central and South America. It has more than 800 employees, including 70 research and development specialists, and operates three manufacturing and research facilities in Saluggia (Vercelli, Italy), Dietzenbach (Germany) and Stillwater (USA). Thanks to its direct sales organization and an international network of over 80 independent distributors, the Group is present in more than 60 countries, offering a broad array of high quality products that includes comprehensive lines for each of the clinical segments in which the Group operates: infectious and viral diseases, thyroid pathologies, oncology, fertility testing, etc. Consolidated net revenues for the year 2006 was €179,756.000. The Company's shares are traded through the STAR segment of the Online Stock Market.

For further information on DiaSorin, please visit http:// www.diasorin.com/en/.

*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/)