

June 29, 2009

Press release

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Securities code: 4549 (TSE 1st Section)

Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd. and Toshiba Corporation Sign License Agreement on Application of LAMP Method for Bioterrorism Monitoring

Tokyo, Japan -- Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd. (Head office in Taito-ku, Tokyo) and Toshiba Corporation have signed a Non-Exclusive License Agreement covering Eiken's proprietary and innovative gene amplification technology (LAMP Method*1).

In May last year, Eiken and Toshiba signed an agreement to develop, produce, distribute, and apply test reagents and test equipment with DNA chips that use the LAMP Method, which is designed to test for infectious diseases in laboratory animals in non-medical fields. The two companies have now signed an agreement to apply the LAMP Method in the non-medical field, to the monitoring of bioterrorism and to tests for identifying pathogens and toxins in the event of an act of bioterrorism. The LAMP Method will specifically be used to test for those pathogens and toxins that are most likely to be used in an act of bioterrorism.

Under the agreement, Toshiba will commercialize a mobile, fully-automatic biological agent detection system that is capable of detecting and identifying about 20 kinds of bacterial agents, including anthrax, and viral agents in a short time (approx. 30 minutes in fast mode and approx. 70 minutes in high-sensitivity mode). Toshiba will begin marketing this product on July 1.

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*1 [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/>)