

Press Release

February 14, 2020

Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd.

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Securities code: 4549 (TSE 1st Section)

Development of a Reagent for Detection of the COVID-19 Coronavirus Using the LAMP Method

Eiken Chemical Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Taito Ward, Tokyo) is moving forward with the development of a reagent for detecting the COVID-19 coronavirus using the LAMP method*, a gene amplification method developed exclusively by Eiken Chemical. Leveraging the sensitivity, ease of use and speed of the LAMP method, as well as the Company's expertise in development of genetic testing reagents, Eiken Chemical aims quickly to develop and begin supplying reagents that can detect the genes of the COVID-19 coronavirus in specimens within one hour.

Guided by its management philosophy of "protecting the health of the public through health care services," Eiken Chemical provides products and services that protect the health and lives of people. In developing this reagent for detecting the COVID-19 coronavirus, Eiken Chemical is marshalling an extensive track record and calling on cooperation at related locations to contribute to measures against infection with the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Background

*** LAMP Method**

“LAMP” stands for “loop-mediated isothermal amplification.” In this method, four primers that recognize two DNA strands and six regions, a strand-displacement DNA polymerase, a substrate and other components are placed in the same test tube at a constant temperature (about 65°C), enabling all processes from amplification to detection to be completed in a single step. This highly efficient amplification method can amplify DNA by a factor of 10^9 — 10^{10} within the space of 15 minutes to one hour. Its high specificity makes it possible to judge the presence or absence of a target DNA sequence based on the presence or absence of the amplification product.

For details please refer to: <http://loopamp.eiken.co.jp/>

In December 2003, Eiken Chemical launched the Loopamp® SARS Coronavirus Detection Reagent Kit, an *in vitro* diagnostic for detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) using the LAMP method. At the time, Loopamp® was introduced in quarantine stations and Institutes of Public Health throughout Japan as an aid to diagnosis of symptomatic patients suspected of infection with SARS, as a means to control communicable disease at entry points to Japan and prevent the spread of infection.

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