

Fasteris Installs Next-Generation Genome Analysis System in Geneva

Revolutionary instrument will permit the sequencing of one billion bases in a single run

Geneva, Switzerland – 11 April 2007 - Fasteris SA announced today the installation of the Illumina Genome Analyzer at its Geneva services facility. The Genome Analyzer is a next-generation gene sequencing system that can generate more than one billion finished bases of high quality data in a single run. This level of performance, which is equivalent to sequencing one third of an entire human genome in a single run, will enable work at speeds 100 times greater than with previous sequencing instruments and at a fraction of the cost.

Fasteris intends to provide next-generation sequencing services starting in June 2007, becoming one of the first commercial service providers worldwide to use the Illumina Genome Analyzer System.

"We are very excited by the outstanding performance of this instrument," said Laurent Farinelli, founder and CEO of Fasteris, who participated in the initial development of the DNA cluster amplification technology used by the new system. *"A whole new field of applications opens up that will revolutionize genomic research."*

Among the first planned applications, re-sequencing of bacterial genomes in partnership with local researchers will help resolve questions that were too difficult or expensive to tackle with previous DNA sequencing technologies. However, the wide range of expected applications includes whole genome re-sequencing, gene expression analysis, and small RNA discovery and analysis.

Prof. Joachim Frey from the University of Berne said: *"We are very pleased to apply the Solexa sequencing technology to analyse bacterial genomes, helping to develop vaccines against transmissible animal diseases in order to improve and sustain animal health."*

About Fasteris

Fasteris is a privately owned company in Geneva, Switzerland providing DNA sequencing and molecular biology services. Fasteris was founded in 2003 by Laurent Farinelli and Magne Osteras.

While at GlaxoWellcome's Geneva Biomedical Research Institute in 1996, Farinelli and colleague Pascal Mayer invented and developed a new DNA sequencing technology based on a surface-bound amplification procedure generating millions of microscopic "DNA colonies". In 2004, Lynx Therapeutics of the USA and UK-based Solexa acquired from Switzerland-based Manteia SA the rights to proprietary technology for DNA colony generation. The technology was further developed by Solexa and later incorporated into the Illumina Genome Analyzer System, a revolutionary instrument capable of sequencing more than a billion DNA bases in a single run.

Fasteris is one of the first commercial service providers worldwide with this instrument.

Contact

Laurent Farinelli
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Fasteris SA - P.O. Box 28- 1228 Plan-les-Ouates - Switzerland
+41 22 794 22 23 - info@fasteris.com - www.fasteris.com

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