

## **imaGenes and FASTERIS Join Forces to Provide Comprehensive Next Generation Sequencing Services in Germany and Austria**

**Berlin and Geneva, June 20, 2008** – imaGenes GmbH and FASTERIS SA announced a close partnership to provide Next Generation Sequencing Services in Germany and Austria. The services offered to both industrial and academic customers for diverse research applications will range from targeted to *de novo* sequencing including complex upstream and downstream services like DNA-enrichment on microarrays, design of high-resolution and multiplex microarrays and tailored bioinformatic analyses.

In December 2006 FASTERIS was the first commercial service provider to acquire an Illumina Genome Analyzer System. FASTERIS offers a wide range of Next Generation Sequencing applications, such as small RNA, ChIP-SEQ or transcriptome analysis, Gene Expression Profiling (including a FASTERIS-developed long tag protocol), *de novo* sequencing, as well as whole genome or targeted re-sequencing for the detection of genetic variants. FASTERIS also has developed bar-coding (indexing) protocols for the preparation of genomic, small RNA or gene expression samples, enabling multiplexing of several samples in a single channel. The recent installation of a paired-end module enables sequencing of library inserts using pairs of forward and reverse primers, which facilitates *de novo* sequence assembly and identification of variants such as insertions or deletions.

imaGenes excels in providing Europe's largest clone collection, protein array technology, microarray applications such as ChIP-chip, arrayCGH, Gene Expression Profiling and miRNA analysis, as well as concomitant bioinformatic analyses. imaGenes is an authorized service provider for Affymetrix, Agilent and NimbleGen microarray technology. imaGenes will act as local distributor for FASTERIS' Next Generation Sequencing services in Germany and Austria.

"imaGenes is a perfect fit for our service offerings," says Laurent Farinelli, Founder and CEO of FASTERIS. "Flexible array technologies play a crucial role in the enrichment of desired sequences and their experience will be advantageous for our customers." Steffen Hennig, imaGenes' Director of Bioinformatics and Services, adds "Our integrated approach makes the addition of FASTERIS' advanced sequencing technology to our portfolio so attractive. New genomic or transcriptome sequence information can directly

be used for designing hitherto unavailable microarrays by imaGenes. We also plan to offer SAGE and CAGE analyses on this deep sequencing system, adding a new dimension to studies of transcript regulation." The cooperation between the two companies will provide the first comprehensive service offering in the field of Next Generation Sequencing for industrial as well as academic customers.

395 words/2828 characters

**About imaGenes :**

*imaGenes GmbH, Berlin, is a premier provider of genome research services in Europe and was founded in 2007 as a spin-off from RZPD (German Resource Center for Genome Research). imaGenes manages one of the most comprehensive collections of clones of mammalian and vertebrate genes in the world offered via its clone search engine GenomeCube®, linked to international databases. The second major research services platform of imaGenes features microarray gene profiling services on Affymetrix, Agilent, and NimbleGen platforms for a broad range of functional analyses. Researchers in academia and in the pharmaceutical industry are provided with highest quality resources and innovative technology with maximum flexibility and cost effectiveness. imaGenes is fully compliant with ISO 9001:2000 quality standards. A comprehensive overview can be found at [www.imagenes-bio.de](http://www.imagenes-bio.de) or [www.rzpd.de](http://www.rzpd.de)*

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**About Fasteris**

*Fasteris is a privately owned company in Geneva, Switzerland providing Genome Analyzer, DNA sequencing, plasmid production 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 two billion DNA bases in a single run. For more information about the Solexa technology, see illumina's website [www.morethansequencing.com](http://www.morethansequencing.com). Fasteris provides services with one of the widest ranges of Genome Analyzer applications.*

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