



Xenogen Announces Licensing Agreement with MIR Preclinical Services

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Xenogen's Biophotonic Imaging Technology Now Available to Broader Range of Companies for Accelerating Drug Development
ALAMEDA, Calif., April 12, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Xenogen Corporation announced today a partnership with MIR Preclinical Services (MIR), a contract research organization, for the purchase and sublicense of Xenogen's biophotonic imaging, or real-time in vivo imaging, technologies. MIR is now authorized to use Xenogen's proprietary technology to conduct pre-clinical research for pharmaceutical and biotech companies, across a variety of therapeutic areas excluding infectious diseases.

Under this first-of-its-kind agreement with a contract research organization, MIR is purchasing one of Xenogen's biophotonic imaging systems (IVIS(R) Imaging System) and licensing its patented methods of biophotonic imaging. The partnership will expand the availability of Xenogen's technology into pre-clinical drug development as a service, and provide a broader range of companies with access to its biophotonic imaging technology.

"Xenogen's technology augments our portfolio of preclinical imaging systems and solutions and helps us maintain a leadership position in the field of Molecular Imaging," said Wilbur Leopold, Ph.D., president, MIR Preclinical Services. "This unique non-invasive imaging technology essentially lights up biological processes in animals, enabling us to identify and follow diseases and drug function at the molecular level in vivo. The addition of Xenogen technology will enhance our efforts to provide our clients with integrated and simultaneous assessment of efficacy and mechanism of action (pharmacodynamics), speeding the drug discovery process."

Xenogen's biophotonic technologies enable researchers -- for the first

first time -- to visualize and track biological processes in living animals, non-invasively and in real time, including analysis of gene function, the spread of disease and the effects of a drug candidate throughout the system. With it, researchers can better understand the mechanisms of action of diseases and drugs.

"Biophotonic imaging technology is quickly becoming the new research standard in drug development, illustrated by its adoption by leading biotech and pharmaceutical companies," said Pamela R. Contag, Ph.D., president of Xenogen Corporation. "Dr. Leopold's expertise in cancer drug discovery and development that he gained with Parke-Davis and Pfizer prior to becoming the president of MIR adds a new dimension to Xenogen's product offerings." Xenogen holds exclusive patent rights to the essential methods for real-time in vivo biophotonic imaging. The company incorporates into microorganisms, cells and living animals the bioluminescent gene that makes a firefly glow, which it uses as a biological tag to see what's happening inside the animal (imaged with its IVIS Imaging System).

About Xenogen Corporation

Xenogen combines systems biology and low-light optical imaging to create powerful new biophotonic imaging technology that advances the ability of scientists to explore genes, proteins, pathogens and tumor cells in living animals in real time, providing predictive data that is designed to substantially improve the success rate in drug development. Xenogen incorporates into living animals the bioluminescent gene that makes a firefly glow and captures the resulting light using an ultra-sensitive camera and sophisticated software. This biophotonic imaging technology creates images and analyzes the data generated on cellular activity, gene expression, spread of disease or the effect of a new drug candidate. Xenogen's biophotonic imaging technology is used by leading academics and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to provide more accurate and previously unavailable data intended to result in the ability to make more timely and cost-effective decisions at every step in the drug development process.

Xenogen Biosciences, a wholly owned subsidiary of Xenogen, offers more than 14 years of experience in the transgenic field, providing reliable,

genetically modified custom mouse models in short timelines. The company has completed more than 2,000 transgenic and 600 gene targeting experiments, with a greater than 95 percent success rate in delivering transgenic founder or gene knockout lines to customers.

More information about Xenogen is available on the company's Web site at <http://www.xenogen.com/>. Xenogen(R), Living Image(R) and IVIS(R) are registered trademarks or trademarks of Xenogen Corporation.

MIR Preclinical Services

MIR is a contract research organization specializing in the preclinical evaluation of novel anti-cancer drug candidates. The company's management has over 60 years of major pharma cancer drug discovery experience and is a leader in the integration of traditional anti-cancer efficacy testing with clinically relevant imaging services to provide new insights to drug discovery and development. MIR offers a wide array of tumor models including human tumor xenografts, syngeneic mouse and rat cancers, and oncogene-driven tumors in transgenic mice. The company is unique in its ability to apply state of the art non-invasive imaging modalities including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), X-ray micro-CT, high resolution small animal PET, and now bioluminescence/fluorescence imaging to visualize biological processes such as signal transduction, apoptosis and angiogenesis. MIR's mission is to provide its clients with an integrated correlation of efficacy with pharmacodynamics (mechanism of action) directly translatable to clinical trial. More information about MIR Preclinical Services is available on the company's Web site at <http://www.molecularimaging.com/>.

Forward-Looking Statement

This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding our imaging products and technologies and their intended uses. These forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations, estimates and assumptions and are subject to many risks, uncertainties and unknown future events that could cause actual results to differ materially. Actual use and results of imaging products and technologies may differ materially from those set forth in this release due to the risks and uncertainties inherent in our business, including, without limitation: our ability to continue to deliver

our products on a timely basis; our ability to enforce our intellectual property rights or operate without infringing or misappropriating the proprietary rights of others; and other risk factors set forth in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. For a discussion of these and other factors that could impact the adoption and use of our imaging products and technologies and cause them to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements, please refer to our recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements or information, which speak as of their respective dates.

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Web site: <http://www.molecularimaging.com/>

Web site: <http://www.xenogen.com/>

Ticker Symbol: (NASDAQ:XGEN)

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