



THE GLOBAL LEADER IN GMO IDENTIFICATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NICARAGUAN UNIVERSITY LICENSES GENETIC ID'S GMO TESTING TECHNOLOGY**

*National Autonomous University of Nicaragua-León joins Genetic ID's Global Laboratory Alliance*

(Fairfield, Iowa, January 5, 2004)— Genetic ID, the global leader in GMO identification, announced that it will license its proprietary GMO testing technology to the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua-León (UNAN-León). As a licensee, UNAN-León will open a new laboratory to test agricultural and food products for genetically modified material, becoming the first in Central America to offer GMO testing. UNAN-León joins Genetic ID's global network of GMO testing labs, known as the Global Laboratory Alliance (GLA).

According to Juan Jovel, Ph.D., titular professor, UNAN-León will use Genetic ID's GMO testing technology to detect genetically modified material (GM) in corn and soybeans. Jovel says Latin American countries such as Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and El Salvador are developing regulations on the import and cultivation of GM crops and will need reliable detection methods in order to enforce the regulations. "Both government officials and non-governmental organizations are starting to establish GMO labeling regulations," says Dr. Jovel. "Knowledge of GMO detection is critical for implementing and enforcing these regulations."

"We are very pleased that UNAN-León will join our Global Laboratory Alliance," says Genetic ID CEO Bill Thompson. "As genetically modified crops are introduced into Latin America, it is important that organizations such as UNAN-León are able to offer reliable GMO testing services to support market demand from the food industry and government generated by these new regulations."

### **World leader in GMO testing**

Dr. Jovel says UNAN-León chose to license Genetic ID's GMO testing technology because of its international reputation for delivering consistent accurate results. "We knew Genetic ID was one of the best labs for GMO detection," he says. "They are very careful about contamination. The reliability of their results is very high."

Genetic ID's proprietary DNA-based, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology detects all commercialized genetically modified crops and precisely detects and precisely quantifies GM content in a wide range of raw crops, processed foods, and animal feed. In addition, Genetic ID has structured a rigorous quality system of controls, standards, and checks and balances to prevent analytical errors from occurring, thus ensuring the tightest security against false positive and false negative results.

Genetic ID was the first laboratory to receive accreditation for GMO quantitative and varietal screening from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Recognized and accepted throughout Europe and having bilateral and multilateral agreements with countries on five continents, UKAS has accredited Genetic ID to the ISO/IEC Guide 17025 and EN 45001 standards.

UNAN-León's new lab will use Genetic ID's qualitative PCR technology, which detects the presence or absence of GM material. "The Genetic ID technology is very reliable and systematic that can be implemented throughout Central America," says Dr. Jovel.

UNAN-León lab will begin to offer GMO detection services starting July 2005.

### **Ensures consistent testing worldwide**

UNAN-León joins Genetic ID's Global Laboratory Alliance, a growing network of 18 expert laboratories that are providing uniform standards of excellence in GMO testing worldwide. GLA labs help food producers and exporters accurately test products both before and after export, thus minimizing risks of refused shipments and facilitating trade and regulatory compliance. Other Alliance members are located in Australia, Brazil, Hong Kong, India, Taiwan, Japan, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Singapore, and the United States. Together with Genetic ID's corporate-owned laboratories in the U.S., Japan, and Germany, the Global Laboratory Alliance has become a powerful force serving the food industry.

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