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Strategic Collaboration Provides Unique “One Stop Shop” Lab Services

Leatherhead Food International (LFI), a leading provider of scientific and information solutions for the global food and drink industry, and Genetic ID (Europe) AG, a world leader in GMO (genetically modified organism) testing, are pleased to announce a strategic collaboration. LFI and Genetic ID can together offer a complete range of GMO testing and comprehensive analytical services for the European food industry.

Instead of sending multiple samples to several laboratories to test for GMO, allergen content, and many other analytical tests, companies can send samples to LFI for a one-stop shop that provides convenience and a complete range of analytical testing including:

- GMO analysis – qualitative, quantitative and varietal
- Allergen detection
- Pesticide, mycotoxin and residue analyses
- Heavy metal detection
- Food ingredient and additive analyses

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- Nutritional composition analyses
- Microbiological analyses
- Glycaemic index testing

In short, the strategic collaboration between Genetic ID and LFI's team of scientists and researchers with over 35 years' of analytical food testing experience, can provide every analytical service needed by the food industry. The reduction in sample preparation, handling, and consolidation to a single service provider offers testing clients with great convenience in addition to cost reductions.

This partnership, which offers a powerful market-focused portfolio of skills and solutions, including LFI's superior analytical food testing capabilities and Genetic ID's cutting edge ISO 17025 accredited GMO testing technology, is unequalled by any other European testing organisation.

"Being able to offer a recognised and global, world class GMO testing solution to our clients in the UK, is in line with our mission of strengthening our partnership opportunities with our Members and clients," explains John Bevington, CEO, LFI. "It allows us to add value to our offering and will be extremely competitive."

Dr Jochen Zoller, CEO, Genetic ID (Europe) AG, agrees: "We are very happy to have formed this relationship with LFI, a leader in food testing in the UK, which brings many years experience in food analysis to join Genetic ID's expertise as the world's first international GMO testing lab.

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“Together we can provide a full range of food and feed tests with excellent service and turnaround times at very competitive prices.”

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Note to editors:

Every time a GM variety is introduced for a new crop, it opens up the need for controlling for GMOs and therefore the need for GMO testing in another market sector. For instance, virtually no testing is done for rice at the moment, but as soon as GM rice is introduced anywhere in the world, the risk becomes very real that any wheat in the food chain could be GM (because of the global nature of the food production, transport, storage, processing system). Presently the vast majority of GM food is related to two commodities, soy and corn, with canola as a minor third. These are all small volume products compared with rice. The entrance of GM rice into the production system would increase testing proportional to the size of that market segment. Thus, adoption of GM varieties of any given crop should cause a quantum jump in testing requirements

There are three drivers that keep GMOs an issue:

- The regulatory environment. EU and Japanese regulations (EU 1830/2003 and 1829/2003) are tightening up, and this trend will support the market requirement for testing and certification
- Consumer concern regarding GMOs and the demand for labelling continues strong. Recent surveys confirm this fact, with 90% of consumers still demanding food products be labelled according to their GMO status. Forty-two countries worldwide have labelling laws in place. Present market research programmes show that most consumers, over 75%, would avoid consumption of GM food
- The proliferation of new GMO varieties, such as Bt rice and GMO wheat. As these new varieties are commercialised, the need and demand for more GMO testing capacity will increase

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