

## VLA Press Release

23 June 2008

---

### VLA awarded £405,000 to develop microarray technology

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) has received a financial boost from the Public Sector Research Exploitation (PSRE) fund to further market its microarray technology.

Microarray technology, which enable multiple DNA/RNA or protein targets to be detected in a single reaction, will revolutionise the diagnostic markets over the next three to five years by offering the potential for quicker, faster and simpler tests. It is already playing a major role in diagnosing animals' resistance to antibiotics.

Andrew Soldan, Commercial Programme Manager, said:

“It is fantastic to get this extra boost to develop commercial work at VLA. The first microarray products, sold under the Identibac brand, will enable many laboratories all over the world to carry out routine bacterial genotyping.

This funding will enable us to continue exploring other commercial opportunities to generate revenue and investigate new applications of the technology.”

With its InterAct partners, VLA was also successful in its joint bid for funds to build on the success of this collaboration of major government laboratory agencies.

InterAct has brought together government scientists working on a range of projects, from radiochemistry to vaccine production, to share their scientific expertise and develop their business management skills.

Andrew Soldan went on to say:

“VLA's commercial work has really benefited from this productive partnership and the InterAct Proof of Concept fund will enable commercial scientific ideas to be taken to a further stage of development or consider applying for a patent.

I am excited about what the VLA Commercial Programme can achieve over the next three years with this funding.”

Science and Innovation Minister, Ian Pearson, announced the successful bids at an event at the Natural History Museum in London on 23 June.

#### Notes for editors:

1. The Veterinary Laboratories Agency is an executive agency of Defra which provides research, diagnosis and surveillance of farm animal diseases.

[www.vla.gov.uk](http://www.vla.gov.uk).

2. InterAct is a partnership between VLA, Central Science Laboratory, Health Protection Agency and the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory. This membership is to be extended to include the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science and the Health & Safety Laboratory. It offers the opportunity for

companies, with interests in acquiring new technologies to collaborate with research scientists. [http://www.defra.gov.uk/vla/vla/vla\\_interact.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/vla/vla/vla_interact.htm)

3. Identibac is a range of new bacterial genotyping kits from the VLA based on the innovative ArrayTube platform technology from Clondiag Chip Technologies.  
[www.identibac.com](http://www.identibac.com)

4. The Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund provides funding for public sector research organisations to help them market particular research ideas and developments with the prospect of setting up new businesses.