



*Wageningen, September 4, 2007*

## **Ghent University and Keygene sign AFLP® license agreement**

Keygene is pleased to announce that it granted an AFLP® license to BCCM/LMG, located at Ghent University, Belgium. Ghent University and Keygene signed a five year non-exclusive license agreement that authorizes BCCM/LMG to perform AFLP reactions on bacterial species. AFLP is a DNA marker technology for genome analysis, transcript profiling and genetic analysis, developed by Keygene. The agreement includes the use of the AFLP trademark. Furthermore parties agreed to resolve issues related to the historic use of AFLP by the BCCM organization. BCCM intends to use the license to extend its genetic database that was constructed on the bases of the AFLP technology and to serve its customers with AFLP typing of bacterial stains.

Mark van Haaren, Business Development Manager of Keygene: 'This license agreement with Ghent University emphasizes the strong position of AFLP as a genetic identification tool. We are very pleased with the agreement with Ghent University and intend to further promote the use of our AFLP technology as well as newly developed technologies under license'.

Prof. Paul De Vos, Director of the BCCM/LMG Bacteria Collection and Senior Research professor at the UGhent: In the early nineties, the Laboratory for Microbiology has been involved in testing the AFLP technology for microbiological identification purposes. The technology allowed us to build a comprehensive and valuable database of bacterial strains belonging to different taxa that is instrumental in serving our customers with molecular analysis of their bacterial strains.

### **About BCCM**

*The BCCM consortium, financed by the Federal Science Policy, consists of four complementary research-based service collections that have joined their forces in order to preserve and use their patrimonium of biological material and their related expertise in the most optimal way. A coordination cell assists these collections/biological resource centers to realize a common strategy on the domains of bio informatics, quality management, external communication and internal and external cooperation projects. As a partner of the BCCM consortium, BCCM/LMG (located at Ghent University) manages a collection of over 22000 bacterial strains combined with scientific expertise translated in a range of services for identification and fine typing, to the benefit of partners and clients in the academic, scientific and industrial communities. The 3 other partners of the consortium are: i) BCCM/LMBP (plasmids), ii) BCCM/MUCL (fungi and yeasts of agro-industrial importance) and iii) BCCM/IHEM (fungi and yeasts of biomedical importance). [www.bccm.belspo.be](http://www.bccm.belspo.be).*

### **About Ghent University**

*After more than twenty years of uninterrupted growth, Ghent University is now one of the most important institutions of higher education and research in the Low Countries. Last year Ghent University attracted over 28000 students and employed 6500 academic, research and administrative staff members. Ghent University offers a broad range of study programs in all academic and scientific branches. With a view to cooperation in research and community service, numerous research groups, centres and institutes have been founded over the years. Several of them enjoy world fame, in various scientific disciplines such as biotechnology, aquaculture, microsystems and optonics. [www.UGent.be](http://www.UGent.be).*



#### About Keygene

*Keygene N.V. ([www.keygene.com](http://www.keygene.com)) is a R&D company with the mission to be the leading company in developing and applying DNA expertise in the field of molecular genetics for its shareholder breeding companies. Keygene has developed a strong proprietary technology platform based on AFLP<sup>®</sup>, a DNA marker technology for genome analysis, transcript profiling and genetic analysis. For diagnostic purposes, SNPWave<sup>®</sup> a multiplexed SNP detection technology was developed. Keygene exploits its proprietary technologies, databases and know-how through contract research and products for applications in the Life Sciences industry and more specifically in innovative breeding applications such as Breeding by Design<sup>™</sup>, CRoPS<sup>™</sup> and KeyPoint<sup>™</sup>. Keygene has five shareholders consisting of major vegetable seed companies that collaborate in the BioSeeds strategic alliance: De Ruiter Seeds, ENZA Zaden, Rijk Zwaan, Vilmorin & Cie and Takii & Co. Keygene has around 100 researchers and staff.*

#### **For more information please contact:**

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