



Wageningen, October 24, 2008

## KeyGene responds to market demands and expands its sequencing capacity with a GS FLX Titanium system

KeyGene announces the expansion of its current new generation sequencing technology platforms. Earlier this month a second GS FLX system was installed at KeyGene's headquarters in Wageningen, The Netherlands. At the same time both systems were upgraded to the higher throughput GS FLX Titanium systems.

The new investment was prompted by the success of several of the new sequencing applications of KeyGene, such as the CRoPS<sup>®</sup> and KeyPoint<sup>™</sup> technologies and the increased demand for whole genome sequencing projects for commercial crop plants. At the same time KeyGene has made new investments in its Bioinformatics infrastructure that support the sequence applications and enable large scale data storage and analysis, including mining of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) and mutant alleles, gene identification and genome assembly. Identified SNPs are used for cost effective genotyping and molecular breeding of field, vegetable and flower crops.

With these new additions and its focus on the plant breeding industry, KeyGene has positioned itself as the preferred high-quality research partner to unravel the structures of larger genomes including that of many plant species. The new sequencing technologies will allow KeyGene to expand further its portfolio of next-generation sequencing applications for commercial crops in a competitive manner, respecting the steep timelines expected by its customers.

Mark J.J. van Haaren, Vice-President Business Development of KeyGene: 'Our advanced sequencing and bio-informatics capacity enabled us to develop new applications such as a novel whole genome sequencing procedure of smaller to mid-sized plant genomes as well as SNP mining and mutant screening technologies. With these applications at hand, KeyGene is well positioned to help solve the complex genetic challenges that face the modern plant breeding industry in a competitive manner.'

Michiel van Eijk, Vice-President Upstream Research adds: 'The upgrade of our High Throughput sequencing capacity follows the need for new sequence based applications for the plant breeding industry. In pursue of our vision of Sequence Based Breeding we have developed several new applications based on the new generation sequencing technologies. Our experience in constructing and analyzing large datasets is now providing us with additional and competitive advantages.'

### 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 with a focus on crop plants. In recent years KeyGene invested in next generation sequencing platforms such as the Roche GS-FLX system (454 technology) and the Illumina Genome Analyzer (Solexa technology). KeyGene has developed a strong proprietary Molecular Breeding platform including 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>, a high throughput SNP discovery technology and KeyPoint<sup>™</sup>, a mutant screening technology. KeyGene has around 130 researchers and staff.*

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