



Press Release

Eurofins Launches Accredited NGS Tests for Identification of Non-Targeted Microorganism

Next generation sequencing techniques for microbiome profiling of food, pharma and environmental samples dedicated to industrials and academic services.

Ebersberg, Germany, August 27th, 2015 - Eurofins Genomics together with Eurofins Food Microbiology laboratory in Nantes launch convenient services for bacterial community screening and microbiome profiling.

The aim of 16S rDNA screening is the identification of microorganism communities present in a sample. The classical targeted microbiology approach, mainly performed with Sanger sequencing or qPCR, is restricted to the detection of predefined microorganisms. In contrast, non-targeted bacterial screening using next generation sequencing techniques helps to identify a broad spectrum of microorganisms within e.g. fermented food products and to better understand their interactions.

Depending on the sample source and the subsequent actions, different expansions of 16S microbiome profiling is required. For this reason two major services are now available to serve the specific market needs.

Non-targeted bacterial screening (NGS Microbiology Screening) for food and feed testing

Especially in the food and feed testing market, a comprehensive interpretation report as well as DNA extraction from various sample sources is needed. Therefore, Eurofins Genomics and Eurofins Food Microbiology laboratory in Nantes, the Group's competence center for microbiology testing, implemented a versatile full service solution that meets all requirements from food and feed customers. The non-targeted bacterial screening can be undertaken on raw or processed food matrices and provides a comprehensive view of the flora present in the product, thanks to advanced bioinformatics and database solutions.

"Our combined expertise in DNA testing and microbiology testing brings forward an applicable and affordable screening test with time saving turnaround times and easy to read short reports", says Nicolas Karam, General Manager Food Microbiology.

16S Microbiome Profiling for academia and research approaches

A flexible straightforward service package "16S Microbiome Profiling" was created by Eurofins Genomics, the genomics division of the Eurofins Scientific Group and key provider of next generation sequencing (NGS) services. This package is particularly dedicated to the needs of academia, pharma and environmental researchers. The customer can choose from several add-on options such as DNA extraction and bioinformatics as well as the specific 16S regions.

"16S Microbiome Profiling is available in our web shop. It offers flexibility to all customers and makes 16S sequencing as easy as online ordering of Oligonucleotides or Sanger sequencing services", says Dr. Birgit Ottenwalder, Head of the Next Generation Sequencing Laboratory at Eurofins Genomics.

"Eurofins underlines its strength in high quality sequencing services with the joint expertise of Eurofins Genomics and Eurofins Food Microbiology Laboratory in Nantes", says Bruno Poddevin, Senior Vice President Eurofins Genomics. "The newly developed services set another landmark in the approach to convert technical expertise and applied know-how into convenient genomic services to the industrial and academic community."

About Eurofins Genomics

Eurofins Genomics, a member of the Eurofins Group with facilities in Europe, the United States and Asia, is an internationally leading provider of DNA sequencing services, genotyping services, DNA synthesis products and bioinformatics services for pharma, diagnostics, food, agriculture, biotechnological and research markets. The company's strength is its extensive customer base and high quality services in industrial scale for the life science industries and academic research institutions around the world.

For further information, please visit eurofinsgenomics.com.

About Eurofins Food Microbiology Laboratory, Nantes

Eurofins Laboratoire Microbiologie de l'Ouest (ELMO) is the flagship food microbiology testing laboratory of the Eurofins Food division in Nantes, France.

Inaugurated in 2011 on the 3,000 m² extension of the Eurofins testing campus in Nantes, ELMO laboratory incorporates the latest state-of-the-art technology, combined with analysis and automation tools developed in-house to ensure high sample throughput in optimal conditions. The benefits are reflected in high quality microbiological analysis with short turn-around-times (TAT) for customers, and increased efficiency.

In addition to being the largest single-site food laboratory, Eurofins Nantes also offers a unique concentration of complementary know-how and technologies in food testing to assure the safety, identity, composition, authenticity, origin and purity of food and feed products. The wide range of analytical methods and technologies used in the laboratory include nutritional chemistry and molecular biology (GMOs, allergens), mass spectrometry, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, etc. This comprehensive breadth of service offering is exceptional for a single-site food testing laboratory, and provides the Group with a compelling suite of services to offer to both new and existing clients.

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