
PreAnalytiX wins tender to provide sample technologies for large-scale health study in Germany

- German National Cohort adopts PAXgene® Blood RNA Tubes and related tools for long-term population study exploring genetic and other causes of widespread diseases
- High-quality data and workflow features lead researchers to select PreAnalytiX technologies
- Study will recruit 200,000 subjects through 18 study centers across Germany, correlating data from medical exams, lifestyle factors and RNA analysis of blood samples

HOMBRECHTIKON, Switzerland, December 3, 2014 — PreAnalytiX, a joint venture between BD and QIAGEN, today announced it has won a competitive tender to provide sample processing technologies for the German National Cohort, a nationwide population study involving 200,000 adults recruited over a four to five-year period. PreAnalytiX will supply PAXgene® Blood RNA Tubes and related technologies for the key steps of whole blood collection, transport, storage, and stabilization of cellular ribonucleic acid (RNA) from blood samples to be provided in 18 study centers across Germany. The research consortium also has an option to extend purchases of the technologies for an additional five years and 200,000 more samples.

This long-term study will investigate widespread problems such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, neurological and psychiatric, and infectious diseases – identifying risk factors, options for early detection, and strategies for treatment and prevention. The German National Cohort (GNC) is organized by a consortium of institutes from universities, the Helmholtz Association, the Leibniz Association, and research departments across Germany, sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the participating German States and the Helmholtz Association.

“We are very gratified to earn the confidence of the German National Cohort’s research institutes and universities to provide PAXgene RNA Tubes and other tools for this important study,” said Frank Augello, General Manager of PreAnalytiX. “The intense competitive tender process for this project focused on quality and workflow advantages of our technologies, as well as innovative solutions for specific issues in research and biobanking for samples, with on-site training and high-quality ongoing support.”

In the epidemiological cohort study, 200,000 people aged between 20 and 69 will receive medical exams and be questioned on lifestyle issues such as physical activity, smoking, diet and psychosocial factors. Blood samples will be collected from all participants to analyze a broad spectrum of laboratory analytes, including genetic factors, using PAXgene Blood RNA Tubes for each subject. After four to five years, all participants will be invited to be examined again. The overall duration of the study is planned for 25-30 years, enabling numerous lines of inquiry for researchers.

“The German National Cohort provides a unique opportunity to correlate data on lifestyle, clinical and genetic factors with knowledge of chronic and life-threatening diseases. The large population sample and thorough study protocol will create a central resource for epidemiology, helping to identify new and tailored strategies for early detection, prediction and prevention of major diseases,” said Prof. Dr. Dr. H.-Erich Wichmann, former Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum



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München, and presently scientific advisor of the Board of Directors of the GNC. "The consortium followed a rigorous process in selecting PreAnalytiX technologies, which we believe offer the best solutions for processing and storing the large number of samples we will collect for RNA/microRNA analysis in this study."

PreAnalytiX combines the expertise of two leaders, BD and QIAGEN, to provide integrated and standardized workflows for the collection, preservation and processing of blood to increase analytical accuracy and laboratory efficiency – key needs for completing the large population study and achieving reliable results.

The GNC will rely upon PreAnalytiX technologies that stabilize and preserve biomolecules and their profiles with validated RNA/microRNA quality and integrity data. All blood collection tubes will come from one supplier, PreAnalytiX, with scientific and technical support such as training in blood collection to help prevent preanalytical errors and improve sample quality. The technologies allow long-term storage of blood samples for up to 8 years (long-term study of blood storage in PAXgene Blood RNA Tubes is ongoing) and stable RNA when stored at -80°C, as well as the possibility of storage in small volumes (<1 ml) and an automation protocol for RNA/microRNA processing of small sample volumes.

About PreAnalytiX

PreAnalytiX GmbH, a joint venture between BD and QIAGEN, develops, manufactures and sells integrated and standardized systems for collection, stabilization and purification of RNA, microRNA and DNA from blood, bone marrow and tissue specimens. The Company serves healthcare institutions, academic researchers, clinical laboratories and the pharmaceutical industry with a broad array of manual and automated products. For more information please visit www.PreAnalytiX.com.

About BD

BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) is a leading global medical technology company that develops, manufactures and sells medical devices, instrument systems and reagents. The Company is dedicated to improving people's health throughout the world. BD is focused on improving drug delivery, enhancing the quality and speed of diagnosing infectious diseases and cancers, and advancing research, discovery and production of new drugs and vaccines. BD's capabilities are instrumental in combating many of the world's most pressing diseases. Founded in 1897 and headquartered in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, BD employs nearly 30,000 associates in more than 50 countries throughout the world. The Company serves healthcare institutions, life science researchers, clinical laboratories, the pharmaceutical industry and the general public. For more information, please visit www.bd.com.

About QIAGEN

QIAGEN N.V., a Netherlands-based holding company, is the leading global provider of Sample & Assay Technologies that are used to transform biological materials into valuable molecular information. Sample technologies are used to isolate and process DNA, RNA and proteins from biological samples such as blood or tissue. Assay technologies are then used to make these isolated biomolecules visible and ready for interpretation. QIAGEN markets more than 500 products around the world, selling both consumable kits and automation systems to customers through four customer classes: Molecular Diagnostics (human healthcare), Applied Testing (forensics, veterinary testing and



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food safety), Pharma (pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies) and Academia (life sciences research). As of September 30, 2014, QIAGEN employed approximately 4,200 people in over 35 locations worldwide. Further information can be found at <http://www.qiagen.com>.

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