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GE Healthcare Announces Licensing Agreements with Bristol-Myers Squibb and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals for Green Fluorescent Protein

Access to GFP technology aids drug discovery and development

Chalfont St. Giles, UK –June 09, 2004 –GE Healthcare, a combination of the former Amersham and GE Medical Systems, today announced that Bristol-Myers Squibb and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc have each signed licensing agreements for rights to *Aequorea Victoria* Green Fluorescent Protein (AvGFP), the most versatile, widely used and well validated fluorescent protein on the market. GE Healthcare has the exclusive rights to offer comprehensive licensing for the intellectual property necessary to make the best use of this GFP technology.

The licensing agreement signed by Bristol-Myers Squibb entitles it to use GFP to carry out primary screening, secondary screening, profiling, research and lead optimisation activities for the development of human therapeutics and human prophylactics, and in the construction of transgenic animal lines. Bristol-Myers Squibb has also secured rights to operate under Bioluminescence's Redistribution™ patent portfolio for monitoring cellular signalling pathways.

Under its license agreement, Regeneron will use GFP in the discovery and development of human therapeutics. It also gives Regeneron the rights to commercialise cell lines it has developed to produce therapeutic proteins and to develop further cell lines.

“Bristol-Myers Squibb and Regeneron join a growing number of world-leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that are using the power of GFP technology,” said Mike Evans, vice president discovery systems marketing and strategy at GE Healthcare. “By using GFP to label target proteins, researchers can track proteins in living cells and screen for compounds that affect specific cellular signaling pathways. This improves the biological relevance of drug screening and helps increase the speed and accuracy of drug discovery and development.”

GFP is compatible with most fluorescent micro and macro imagers as well as plate readers. When used in conjunction with the IN Cell Analyzer high-throughput sub-cellular imaging system from GE Healthcare, GFP technology allows scientists to look inside live cells, study how proteins move about and function, and evaluate how drug candidates affect cellular processes.

GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies that are shaping a new age of patient care. GE Healthcare's expertise in medical imaging and information technologies, medical diagnostics, patient monitoring systems, disease research, drug discovery and biopharmaceuticals is dedicated to detecting disease earlier and tailoring treatment for individual patients. GE Healthcare offers a broad range of services to improve productivity in healthcare and enable healthcare providers to better diagnose, treat and manage patients with conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's and cardiovascular diseases.

GE Healthcare is a \$14 billion unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE) that is headquartered in the United Kingdom. Worldwide, GE Healthcare employs more than 42,500 people committed to serving healthcare professionals and their patients in more than 100 countries. For more information about GE Healthcare, visit our website at www.gehealthcare.com

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