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University of Utah Awarded U.S. Patent for Use of Dye in PCR

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – May 28, 2003 The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has issued the University of Utah U.S. patent No. U.S. 6,569,627 ("the '627 patent") relating to methods of nucleic acid amplification in the presence of certain dyes such as SYBR Green I. The issuance of this patent reinforces the University's patent portfolio in the area of real-time nucleic acid amplification, detection, quantification, and melting analysis.

The '627 patent builds on U.S. patent No. 6,174,670, issued to the University of Utah on January 16, 2001 for monitoring nucleic acids with probes or dyes during or after amplification reactions such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The University of Utah holds these and other patents for the analysis of nucleic acids, which it has licensed to Idaho Technology, Inc., a small business in Salt Lake City, Utah, and sublicensed to Roche Diagnostics for a broad range of applications.

The '627 patent describes a dye-based method which enables detection of nucleic acid amplification products during the reaction, a process commonly known as "real-time" or "homogeneous" monitoring. Applications for this method include life science research in genetics, genomics, and microbiology, as well as clinical diagnostic testing, pathogen detection in industrial applications such as food safety, and military applications. The method also provides a rapid option for detection of nucleotide polymorphisms and mutations for genotyping and strain typing. The use of the dye SYBR Green I in real-time PCR is practiced worldwide since the first scientific publication in 1997 by University of Utah scientists. The work leading to this invention was supported by a Small Technology Transfer Research (STTR) grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, and by a Technology Innovation grant from the University of Utah Research Foundation.

About Idaho Technology, Inc.

Idaho Technology, Inc. is a privately held biotechnology company based in Salt Lake City, Utah. Founded in 1990, Idaho Technology licensed a pioneering technology from the University of Utah for the world's fastest DNA detection device. Idaho Technology created several products based on this technology with funds from the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense. Researchers, medical technicians, law enforcement officers, and soldiers in the field use the company's devices to detect or study disease-causing organisms.

About Roche and the Roche Diagnostics Division

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading innovation-driven health care groups. Its core businesses are pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is number one in the global diagnostics market, the leading supplier of pharmaceuticals for cancer, and a leader in virology and transplantation. As a supplier of products and services for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, the Group contributes on a broad range of fronts to improving people's health and quality of life. Roche employs roughly 62,000 people in 150 countries. The Group has alliances and research and development agreements with numerous partners, including majority ownership interests in Genentech and Chugai. Roche's Diagnostics Division, the world leader in *in vitro* diagnostics with a uniquely broad product portfolio, supplies a wide array of innovative testing products and services to researchers, physicians, patients, hospitals, and laboratories worldwide. For further information, please visit Roche's Web sites at www.roche.com and www.roche-diagnostics.com.

Source: University of Utah/Idaho Technology Inc.