Contract manufacturing agreement for COVID-19 test

RNS Number : 4646H
Yourgene Health PLC
25 March 2020

Yourgene Health plc

("Yourgene" or the "Company")

Contract manufacturing agreement for COVID-19 diagnostic test

Manchester, UK - 25 March 2020: Yourgene (AIM: YGEN), a leading international molecular diagnostics group, announces the signing of an agreement for contract manufacturing services with Novacyt S.A. ("Novacyt", EURONEXT GROWTH: ALNOV; AIM: NCYT), an international specialist in clinical diagnostics, to support the production of COVID-19 diagnostic tests developed by Primerdesign, Novacyt's molecular diagnostics division.

Yourgene will make use of its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Citylabs in Manchester, UK, to work alongside Novacyt to ramp-up production of their COVID-19 test. The first batches are expected to be shipped from the Citylabs site over the next few weeks. In the interest of speed, the Company will initially manufacture critical components for Primerdesign's COVID-19 test. The two companies may subsequently seek to expand the agreement to utilize Yourgene's ability to produce final versions of the COVID-19 testing kits.

Yourgene's GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) facility has the capacity to support the manufacture of critical components for the production of COVID-19 diagnostic tests, whilst continuing its own PCR (polymerase chain reaction) production. Should the requirement to produce COVID-19 tests expand, the Company may need to increase capacity to replenish PCR stocks and maintain continuity of supply of existing Yourgene product lines. The Company is well prepared to do this and is able to utilise its expertise in automation to assist in the scale up of production.

In addition to supporting manufacturing efforts, the Company is also in the process of expanding its laboratory capabilities to support the NHS in COVID-19 laboratory service testing. This is developing quickly, and the Company will update the market as and when these capabilities are in place and set to be utilised.

Expanding into another diagnostic test aligns with Yourgene's strategy to expand the Company's product portfolio and bring new products to market.

Lyn Rees, CEO of Yourgene, commented: "We are pleased to be able to utilise our high quality manufacturing skills to support Novacyt in the production of a key diagnostic test for COVID-19. This manufacturing agreement illustrates that we have an incredibly skilled workforce and flexible manufacturing capabilities to support diagnostic test developers at critical times.

"Business demand for our core products and services is proving to be very resilient to current market conditions, albeit with isolated areas of friction for travel or customs restrictions. I would like to thank our committed workforce for their tremendous endeavours in supporting the medical supply chain at this time."

This announcement contains inside information for the purposes of Article 7 of EU Regulation 596/2014.

Yourgene Health plc Lyn Rees, Chief Executive Officer	Tel: +44 (0)161 669 8122 investors@yourgene-health.com
Barry Hextall, Chief Financial Officer	
Joanne Cross, Director of Marketing	
Cairn Financial Advisers LLP (NOMAD)	Tel: +44 (0)20 7213 0880
Liam Murray / James Caithie / Ludovico Lazzaretti	
Stifel Nicolaus Europe Limited (Sole Corporate Broker)	Tel: +44 (0)20 7710 7600
Nicholas Moore / Matthew Blawat / Ben Maddison	
Walbrook PR Ltd (Media and Investor Relations)	Tel: +44 (0)20 7933 8780 or yourgene@walbrookpr.com
Paul McManus / Lianne Cawthorne	Mob: 07980 541 893 / Mob: 07584 391 303

About Yourgene Health plc

Yourgene is an international molecular diagnostics group which develops and commercialises genetic products

and services. The group works in partnership with global leaders in DNA technology to advance diagnostic science.

Yourgene develops and commercialises simple and accurate molecular diagnostic solutions, primarily for reproductive health. The Group's products include non-invasive prenatal tests (NIPT) for Down's Syndrome and other genetic disorders, Cystic Fibrosis screening tests, invasive rapid aneuploidy tests, male infertility tests and genetic disease tests. Yourgene's commercial footprint is already established in the UK, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Our product development, research service and commercial capabilities extend across the lifecycle of genetic test development including regulatory submissions. Through our technical expertise and partnerships, Yourgene is also extending its genetic testing offering into oncology.

Yourgene is headquartered in Manchester, UK with offices in Taipei and Singapore, and is listed on the London Stock Exchange's AIM market under the ticker "YGEN". For more information, visit www.yourgene-health.com and follow us on twitter @Yourgene_Health.

This information is provided by RNS, the news service of the London Stock Exchange. RNS is approved by the Financial Conduct Authority to act as a Primary Information Provider in the United Kingdom. Terms and conditions relating to the use and distribution of this information may apply. For further information, please contact rns@lseg.com or visit www.rns.com.

END

AGREAPDLASSEEFA