

PRESS RELEASE

BRAIN successfully concludes comprehensive research programme

Zwingenberg, February 05, 2013 - The biotechnology company BRAIN AG has announced the successful conclusion of a research and development programme aimed at optimising microbial production organisms. The scientific and technical outcomes of the successful research programme led to five patent families, including product- as well as process patents. This BRAIN programme was one of 16 programmes that were jointly proposed by the White Biotechnology Industrial Association (IWBio) and positively appraised by a panel of international experts. The five-year research project was financially supported from the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) until the end of 2012.

BRAIN's research programme, titled "Industrial Production Processes for Novel Enzymes and Bioactives from Natural Sources - MikroPro", broke down into several clearly defined sub-projects and focussed on a total of three research and technology priorities. These included the development and application of alternative microbial expression systems, the identification of "performance proteins" from the metagenome, as well as bioactives or entire synthesis routes from non-culturable microbes.

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Renowned chemical, pharmaceutical and food-processing companies joined forces under the umbrella of the IWBio Association for the first time in 2007 to promote microbial genome research as a technology platform for future industrial applications. BRAIN aimed here at re-designing yield-optimised microorganisms (designer minimal organisms) and at establishing and making available novel products and product lines from microbial sources in industry-compatible quantities and formats.

“The funds received from the BMBF covered part of the costs of these highly innovative research projects, which obviously also carried a certain risk. Thanks to them we had the rare opportunity to implement project ideas as a small and medium-sized corporation which we could not have pre-financed otherwise,” explains Dr Jürgen Eck, Chief Scientific Officer of BRAIN AG.

“The long-term public funding over five-years allowed us to reliably plan the entire project, which played a major role in making it such a success and broadens both, BRAINs technology platform as well as the amount of product candidates”, adds Dr Michael Krohn, BioActives Unit Head and Member of the Board of BRAIN AG.

The scientific and technical outcomes of the successful research programme were distilled into five patent families, including product patents and process patents. Moreover, the research results were published in ten peer-reviewed scientific articles and were also presented in plenary lectures and discussed by expert circles at a number of international symposia and trade shows.

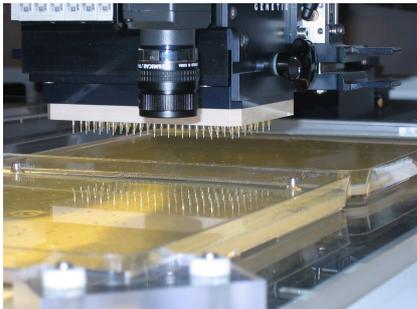
About BRAIN

BRAIN AG is an industrial “white” biotech company which discovers and develops novel bioactive natural compounds and proprietary enzymes for its partners and customers in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as the food and cosmetics industries. With its unique approach to the discovery and production of new biological compounds and biocatalysts, the company achieves creative solutions by harnessing nature’s untapped biodiversity. Its success is built on its proprietary BioArchive comprising millions of genes, proteins and metabolic pathways from microbial isolates and metagenome libraries. Since its foundation in 1993, BRAIN has entered into over 80 strategic collaborations with nearly all the relevant companies within the chemical industry as e.g. BASF, Ciba, Clariant, Evonik, DSM, Genencor, Henkel, Nutrinova, RWE, Sandoz, Schering, Südzucker and Symrise, to name but a few. Currently, BRAIN employs 105 highly skilled people.

For their groundbreaking industrial biotechnology activities for a sustainable „biologisation of the chemical industry“ using nature’s toolbox for industrial processes, BRAIN with its CEO Dr. Holger Zinke received the “Deutschen Umweltpreis 2008” of the “Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt”, DBU.

www.brain-biotech.de

Pictures:



On the lookout for improved enzymes and biocatalysts for industrial applications.

Automated screening of optimized microbial expression strains for the economically viable manufacturing of industrially relevant products.

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Optimisation of microbial expression strains.

In order to make production processes more efficient, experts often focus on the microbial expression strain first, as this often paves the way for a range of improvements.

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Pictures and text:

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