

PRESS INFORMATION

Nurturing cutting-edge technologies and maximising business growth

Olympus Life and Material Science Europe GmbH acquires Advalytix AG

Hamburg, 4 April 2005 – Olympus Life and Material Science Europe GmbH has today announced the acquisition of the privately held microfluidics company Advalytix AG. With this move, Olympus demonstrates its commitment in this fast growing field in Life Science. Moreover, the extremely broad application spectrum and innovative technologies of Advalytix will provide Olympus with additional potential to nurture expansion and maximise business growth.

Microfluidics is a key technology for diagnostics and molecular biology research used to manipulate liquids in the submicroliter range. The miniaturisation of liquid volumes meets an ever growing demand to conserve both scarce sample and expensive reagents. Advalytix commenced the commercialisation of its proprietary technology with the SlideBooster™ hybridisation and AdvaWash™ washing stations, targeted at the microarray market. The company is also developing products and protocols for the genetic analysis of single cells.

Advalytix offers an exceptionally broad range of applications in Life Science. It extends from mixing in measuring cassettes for diagnostics or microscopy slides to more complex applications such as for Single-Cell-PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) or Lab-on-a-Chip in routine diagnostics. “The acquisition of Advalytix represents great short, mid and long-term opportunities for Olympus Life and Material Science. It positions Olympus

at the very forefront of the latest technological developments in Life Science and allows us to sustain our above average business growth as well as profiting from the future developments in this rapidly expanding specialist area," comments Dr Helmut Koehler, Executive Managing Director of Olympus Life and Material Science Europa GmbH.

About Olympus Life and Material Science Europa GmbH

Olympus Life and Material Science Europa GmbH amalgamates the fields of microscopy and diagnostics. It covers a broad spectrum of needs ranging from microscope systems for life and material science, to high-performance analytical systems and reagents for clinical laboratories. The company belongs to the Olympus Europe Group which consists of more than 50 marketing, service and production companies in almost all European countries. It represents the Olympus Diagnostica and Microscopy business in the territories of Europe, the Middle East and Africa and includes the worldwide 'centre of competence' for Olympus Clinical Chemistry reagents in its Ireland Branch. The Diagnostics System Division is a systems provider for in Vitro Diagnostics in the product segments Clinical Chemistry, Electrophoresis and Transfusion Testing. It serves mostly large and medium size hospitals, commercial clinical laboratories and blood banks.

About Advalytix AG

Advalytix pioneered the use of surface acoustic waves for manipulation and agitation of small liquid volumes. Advalytix develops and produces instruments for biochemical research such as microarray hybridisation (SlideBooster™) and washing stations (AdvaWash™). It licences its proprietary liquid handling technology for OEM solutions integrating non-invasive mixing into a wide variety of applications.



If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

Advalytix AG
Astrid Kirchhoff
Tel.: +49 (0)89 628366-82
Fax: +49 (0)89 628366-11
Email: info@advalytix.de

Olympus Life & Material Science Europa GmbH
Claudia Huscher
Tel.: +49 (0)40 23773-479
Fax: +49 (0)40 23773-973
Email: claudia.huscher@olympus-europa.com