TaiwanBiotechCcompanies

AbGenomics Corporation

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A global biopharmaceutical company founded by a group of leading biomedical scientists in June 2000, AbGenomics Corporation has set its goal to be the leader in the development of innovative antibody therapeutics and diagnostics that address major markets with unmet medical needs. The company's primary research and development areas are immune-related diseases and cancer.

AbGenomics has developed proprietary technology that circumvents several limitations in drug target and protein discovery. Enabled by this technology, the company has identified valuable targets and further developed them into a portfolio that includes potential products for T-cell mediating diseases and cancer. These proprietary technologies are able to support genomic, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology companies in advancing the identification and validation of new drug targets and product developments.

The AbProt™ platform is particularly useful in generating monoclonal antibodies against the native form of membrane proteins. Unlike conventional DNA immunization protocol, which takes at least three weeks to determine if any given immunization is successful, AbProt™ (once the DNA construct is ready) allows scientists to validate the success of any given immunization in just three days. Presence of antibody titer against or specific to the gene product of interest in the serum is tested with AbScreen™.

Besides being used in combination with AbProt™ to screen for monoclonal antibodies, the AbScreen™ platform, standing alone, can be used to screen for binding reagents of different chemical identities to a protein of interest. Since the AbScreen™ platform presents the recombinant protein with proper post-translational modifications to the combinatorial libraries with very low background binding, the respective reagents that have a better chance to be developed into therapeutics or diagnostics can be isolated.

With these two platform technologies, the company is able to develop potential therapeutics and key reagents for understanding the functions of genes and their potential applications in therapeutics and diagnostics. With a strong R&D and product development infrastructure, the versatility and strength of its two-platform technologies, and the expertise of its scientists and clinicians , AbGenomics shows great potential in the pursuit of novel pharmaceuticals.

APEX International Clinical Research Co., Ltd.

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Conducted by a team of research professionals, APEX International Clinical Research Co., Ltd. has effectively managed a number of clinical trials and related projects. The company has assisted 68 pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide in conducting over 180 clinical research and related projects.

Aside from collaborating with 29 reputable medical centers in the Asia-Pacific region, APEX has met or exceeded quality standards of six world-renowned pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies by means of CRO Quality Assurance audits.

APEX's China subsidiary in Shanghai is to be set up in the first half of 2002. This expansion will enable the company to operate full range services around the region and help worldwide giant pharmaceutical companies on their way to Asian markets for new drug development. Establishing strategic partnership with reputable CRO companies worldwide, APEX's vision is to sustain their position as the most professional CRO team in the Asia Pacific region including Taiwan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, and Australia.

APEX provides following services: International project management, regulatory affairs, preparation of clinical study, study monitoring, medical writing, site management, data management and statistics, ICH-GCP and related fields training.

Caleb Pharmaceuticals, Incorporation

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Caleb Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (CPI) has emerged from a small start-up company in 1995 into an integrated drug delivery R&D powerhouse in Taiwan and in Asia. For the past six years, CPI and its R&D team have produced eight products with six others still in the pipelines, covering a range of medical aspects as anti-hypertension, Alzheimer's disease, anti-narcotics, pain relief, anti-motion sickness, sexual dysfunction, wound healing and DNA vaccination.

CPI has developed five ethical transdermal drug delivery system (TDDS) utilizing its proprietary enhancer and formulation technology.

Ariel TDDS, approved by the Department of Health in Taiwan for treating motion sickness, is a patented adhesive matrix-type patch and can be worn at the back of the ear for three days. CPI is seeking partners to co-market the product around the world.

Furthermore, CPI has developed a series of over-the-counter (OTC) products to meet the growing demand for hydrogel or water-based skin patches. And collaborating with the Academia Sinica in Taipei to develop a wound healing hydrogel patch that contains herbal extracts from ancient Chinese medicine, the patch product demonstrated superior performance in curing wounds.

In addition, the company has developed a series of consumer type controlled release patch products, of which seven products have been developed and marketed in Taiwan, Mainland China, Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines. These products includes: *B*ugs *B*ite *S*hield mosquito repellent patch; *Hercules* refreshing patches containing either ginseng or lavender or rosemary for relieving fatigue and tiredness; *Rebecca* nourishing eye and forehead masks for cosmetic purposes; *Cool* patch designed for temporary fever relief; and AromaThera patches to enhance life quality with essential oil family.

CPI owns a cGMP-certified patch fabrication facility capable of manufacturing both solvent- and water-based patches in an efficient and cost-effective way.

With these facilities and an experienced and knowledgeable team, CPI will be able to develop TDDS products from concept to marketplace for its valuable customers.

GeneMaster Lifesciences Co., Ltd.

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One of Taiwan's fast-growing biotech companies, GeneMaster Lifesciences offers complete turnkey biotech platforms to serve bioscientific research and diagnostic applications.

Established in May 2000 in Taipei, GeneMaster's research and development division integrates various relevant technologies such as molecular biology, proteomics, genomics, Bioinformatics, bio-MEMS, pharmaceutics, miniaturization technology, medicine, surface chemistry, optics and computer electronics. Equipped with the latest scientific tools for biochip research and fabrication uses, the company is developing key technologies with Academia Sinica, National Central University, National Yang Ming University, and other research institutions.

Based on the technologies developed by Academia Sinica, the MasterChip employs nylon membrane as a substrate instead of the usual glass slides in a design aimed at greater handling convenience and lower costs. This MasterChip platform adopts the colorimetric detection system, a more cost-effective method than the usual fluorescence system.

Furthermore, GeneMaster's protein chip is expected to replace individual diagnostic tests for a more timesaving, cost-effective assay. Using proteins as biological probes for assays based on antigen-antibody reactions, GeneMaster's ongoing research is focused on protein chips tethered with antibodies for application in a wide spectrum of products.

GeneMaster's MeningitisChip is a fast and efficient tool for the diagnosis of meningitis, covering 20 bacterial and vital species that make up 80–90 percent of the known causes of the disease and requiring no special equipment to identify the disease strain.

Centered on the GalaxyChip, GeneMaster's second-generation proprietary biochip platform is a unique and versatile technology platform made possible by fusing biotechnology, material science, bio-MEMS, miniaturization technology, genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics. GalaxyChip contains a revolutionary design in which tiny bar-coded biochips carry individual probes attached by immersion.

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Established in May 1984, General Biologicals Corp. (GBC) has contributed greatly to the local government need to perform the ten-year program of the Hepatitis B Prevention.

With both of its factories operating per GMP standard for manufacturing diagnostic kits, GBC has developed complete product line that includes Hepatitis, Anti-HIV, Anti-HTLV, Tumor Markers, Cardiac Marker and Infectious Diseases diagnostic kits.

The main features of the products are format diversity, high accuracy, flexible applications, user friendly and time saving procedure.

For the past decade, GBC has emerged as one of the leading company on *in vitro* diagnostic kit manufacturing in Asia. In addition to the expansion of current immunoassay product line, GBC is also developing the Antibody Immuno Column for Analytical Processes (ABICAP) System and multiplex PCR and QC-PCR diagnostic kits for Hepatitis, HIV HTLV.

This new generation diagnostic platforms and kits will be aimed to serve not only screening, but also to focus on quantitative confirmation, prognosis, monitoring and therapy for disease management. GBC will continue to develop and manufacture new *in vitro* diagnostic reagents using the advance genomics and proteomics technique.

Genovate Biotechnology Co., Ltd.

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Genovate Biotechnology Co., Ltd. (GBL), formerly known as Genelabs Biotechnology Co., Ltd., is a fully integrated biopharmaceutical company formed in 1995. Committed to searching for innovative products that can improve people's health, the company received a Pharmaceutical Science R&D Award in December 2001 for its new drug development of Aslera™.

GBL received the rights to develop, manufacture, and commercialize Aslera™ in the Asia Pacific Region except Japan.

Clinical studies on lupus patients indicate that Aslera™ provides clinical benefits to patients suffering form mild to moderate lupus.

The company has the following, other late stage development pipeline products to date: Genetaxyl, an anticancer drug under development, PPV for treating urinary incontinence, and four slow-release (SR) products using patentable delivery systems, of which two have been approved for marketing while the other two are under clinical feasibility studies.

In 1996, GBL established a full-service Contract Research Organization (CRO) to comply with the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for Taiwanese trials. It offers product and case report form design, clinical supply presentation, clinical study monitoring and auditing, data management and statistical analysis, final report writing, and submission of new drug registrations to the Taiwan DOH.

GBL's manufacturing capabilities were secured in March 1997 by an acquisition of Bristol Myers Squibb Taiwan's GMP pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in Hsinchu, Taiwan. In the areas of R&D technology, the company's core competence is in lead finding, new product development, product reformulation, conducting clinical trials in compliance with the ICH GCP guidelines and cGMP-accredited drug manufacturing.

It has received approximately 40 drug approvals over the past four years. GBL also provides contract manufacturing services to fully utilize manufacturing capacity and expand its revenue base.

While its short-term development goal is to focus on niche generics in Taiwan, growth in fields of branded generic, SR-formulation, new drug development in Taiwan and the US, and simultaneous development of international markets alone or in strategic collaboration figures prominently in GBL's medium-term and long-term phases.

IBM Life Sciences Center of Excellence in Taiwan

IBM Taiwan has recently established a Life Sciences Center of Excellence, which is the first IBM research and development center in the Asia Pacific region to focus exclusively on the life sciences industry.

The center will offer information technology solutions and services to help accelerate life sciences research and development. Through alliances with leading R&D organizations in Taiwan, the center will lead the creation of Taiwan's first bio-grids — computer grids that offer computing, data storage and networking resources for life sciences research.

The center also will develop other leading edge information technology solutions for biotechnology, genomic, e-health, pharmaceutical, agri-science and other life sciences industries.

Located in the Nankang Software Park, the center will bring together IBM's resources and expertise in areas such as high performance computing, data and storage management with IBM's world class research in computational biology and parallel computing.

The center will showcase IT solutions that have been specifically tailored for the life sciences market, including IBM DiscoveryLink — a combination of innovative middleware and services that can integrate information from heterogeneous data residing on disparate platforms and located in different geographies.

IBM DiscoveryLink enables researchers to analyze vast amounts of data more effectively to help solve complex research problems. It dramatically improves product cycle time while lowering development costs for pharmaceutical, biotechnology and agri-science companies. The center will use IBM DiscoveryLink to integrate 100 public life sciences data sources from around the world within three years.

The Life Science Center of Excellence will also allow life sciences customers to explore grid computing as an IT platform for life sciences research and development. Customers also will have access to demonstrations, workshops and technical briefings on grid computing and access to IBM's team of grid experts. Working with life sciences organizations in Taiwan, IBM plans to lead the creation of computer grids to offer computing, data storage and networking resources for life sciences research.

The center will work in coordination with IBM's Computational Biology Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, and with IBM research labs around the world.

The center also will collaborate with industry leaders from both the Taiwan public and private sector, including Academia Sinica, the Institute for Information Industry, National Yang-Ming University, Taichung Healthcare and Management University, Hsing-Kuo University, East Wind Life Sciences Systems and Agnitio, a biotechnology company. Through these alliances, the center will support research efforts covering such areas as Chinese herbal medicine and oncology.

Maxigen Biotech Incorporated

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Maxigen Biotech Incorporated (MBI) is a leading biotechnology company that develops and commercializes novel high-value biomaterial products based on proprietary collagen technologies. Founded in 1998 after research at the University of Southern California displayed significant advantages on the company's proprietary collagen technology over traditional methods, Maxigen has developed medical products based on proprietary, patented collagen technology, including SurgiAid™, Formaderm™, Formagraft™, and Formatin™ collagen products.

Maxigen's collagen technology allows purification and production of the highest quality collagen. The first medical device developed by Maxigen, SurgiAid™, is a surgical collagen hemostat that has obtained Investigation Device Exemption (IDE) status from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). SurgiAid™ can be applied easily on bleeding wound bed as a hemostat.

Formaderm™, Formagraft™, and Formatin™ are promising biomedical products in Maxigen's collagen product pipeline. Formaderm™ collagen implant is developed as an injectable collagen to fill and smooth the areas of facial lines, acne scars, and wrinkles. Formagraft™ is a bone graft substitute that mimics natural bone and high biocompatibility. Formatin™ collagen implant is an injectable bulking agent that uses collagen to increase bulk in the tissue surrounding the urethra to alleviate urinary incontinence.

Strategic global partnership is an important element in the success of the company's product development, particularly in transforming research programs into clinical uses.

Expanding the technological and product market platform through partnerships, alliances, in and out license and acquisitions, Maxigen seeks global partnership for product development and distribution.

MDS Pharma Services – Taiwan

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MDS Pharma Services – Taiwan (MDSPS Taiwan) provides extensive services on drug discovery and development to pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries worldwide. A member of MDS Pharma Services, MDSPS Taiwan plays very important roles in Pharmacology Profiling and Fermentation Technology services to help improve the effectiveness and efficiency on the discovery and preclinical stages in the process of drug discovery and development.

Established in 1970 as name of Panlabs Taiwan, Ltd., MDSPS Taiwan offers animal pharmacological assays to help pharmaceutical companies around the world discover new drugs,adding fermentation technology services in 1975. Acquired by MDS Inc., an international health and life science company in Canada, in 1995, MDSPS Taiwan became the center of MDS Pharma Services to offer Pharmacology Profiling Services, providing assays which measure pharmacological effects on receptors, enzymes, cells, tissues, animals and microbes.

MDSPS Taiwan provides animal testing models covering the therapeutic categories on allergy, inflammation, central nervous system, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, hormone metabolism, immunology, cancer and microbial. The company has also developed screening packages, which include relevant secondary functional assays automatically conducted if activity is found in primary molecular assays.

Yield improvement services provided by MDSPS Taiwan — including classical yield improvement, molecular biology approach or a combination of both — can be utilized in fermentation. The classical yield improvement programs involve selection and screening for improved mutants, with media optimization and process development done in parallel. Molecular biology can be a powerful approach to yield improvement, particularly for enzymes and other single gene products.

MDSPS Taiwan's Fermentation Technology also conducts biotransformation projects, which focus on screening for microorganisms or enzymes that catalyze a specific transformation or generate analogs of the substrate.

Medigen Biotechnology Corporation

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Medigen Biotechnology Corp. (MBC) was established in 1999, bringing together the biotechnical expertise from Australia and the monetary resources of Taiwan. Aimed at becoming a world-class research and development organization in Taiwan, MBC is devoted to the development of advanced therapeutics for cancer through the commercialization of PI-88 as an anti-angiogenetic agent for cancer treatment.

In a strategic alliance with Progen Industries Ltd, MBC has extended the clinical development of PI-88 into treating Asia's most prevalent forms of cancer. PI-88 represents a new approach to treating cancers alone or can be used in combination with other forms of treatment, without the toxic side effects associated with current therapies such as chemotherapy. Other than PI-88 which is cytostatic in nature, MBC has identified another potential anti-cancer compound (Compound-K, cytotoxic in nature) for development. The licensing and development of this agent will fortify MBC's product portfolio by injecting new blood in the existing research pipeline that is synergistic to PI-88 in fighting cancer.

In addition, MBC is collaborating with the R&D sector of Veteran Taipei General Hospital to in-license and acquire the commercial rights of a series of cancer specific novel genes on liver, lung, gastric and breast cancers. A potential product deriving from this cancer-specific genomic platform is a "Cancer Chip" of substantial accuracy that can be used to detect early cancers, especially in high-risk groups. MBC is also in contact with the Department of Medical Technology of Taipei Medical University in a project to develop a cancer-specific protein platform as an accurate parameter for the detection of cancer. These joint projects will allow MBC to generate a series of commercially feasible products for cancer detection and drug screening.

Committed to promoting health and bringing welfare to people, MBC will expand the company's spectrum to include a comprehensive product portfolio with manufacturing and marketing capabilities.

Mithra Bioindustry Co., Ltd.

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Established in 1988, Mithra Bioindustry acted as a contract lab at its initial stage and subsequently set up the Pharmaceutical Technology Department to assist domestic and overseas pharmaceutical companies conducting bioavailability/bioequivalence (BA/BE) study.

The Biotechnology Department was set up in 1990 to manufacture the clinical test reagents and develop the market. And with the Medical Information Department, Aquaculture Technology Department and Biotechnology Consulting Department established in 1999 to fully develop bioindustry, Miithra has expanded considerably.

After two years of research to develop the culture of triploid oyster larvae, the Aquaculture Technology Department succeeded in artificial oyster larvae hatchery. It is the first factory built in Taiwan to produce diploid and triploid eyed larvae and single seed oyster larvae for domestic and overseas aquaculturist.

Currently, Mithra offers services for identification of gene sequence, genotyping and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) and examination of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) quantitatively and qualitatively. Mithra aims at the proliferation of bivalvae seed and the development of new culture technology. Furthermore, the company is setting up a Clinical Medicine Department to assist clients in designing and executing clinical trials for health food, herbal medicine and western medicine in 2000.

PhytoHealth Corp.

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Specializing in new drug development, PhytoHealth Corp. has already a number of promising drug candidates in the R&D pipeline. Established in 1998, PhytoHealth's research and development focus in areas such as oncology, hematology, and neurologies. Such products can be used to treat cancer, disorders of the blood and bone marrow, aging, motion sickness, and neurodegenerative diseases. PhytoHealth has been listed on Taiwan's TAISDAQ stock exchange since May 13, 2002.

Among the company's product pipeline are PG2, Phencynonate HCl , Guanoplatin, PH3 and PG27. A botanical drug for hematopoiesis and immunomodulation, PG2 is an effective stimulator of the immune functions and a strong candidate for treating patients with neutropenia, anemia or thrombocytopenia. PG2 is further intended for use as adjunctive therapy for the treatment of myelosuppression associated with cancer chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

As a highly selective anticholinergic agent, Phencynonate HCl is a new chemical entity for the prevention and treatment of motion sickness without the common side effect of drowsiness. Guanoplatin, a Cisplatin analog, is effective against two types of human breast cancer cells with much less toxicity as compared with Cisplatin. In terms of binding onto DNA or RNA, Guanopaltin might be used to treat viruses such as HIV and offer a good opportunity for the treatment of AIDS patients.

In addition, PhytoHealth is collaborating with the National Yang-Ming University to study active fractions (PH3) extracted from a single plant. With two patents expected to be filed for the prevention and treatment of common aging diseases such as osteoporosis in 2002, PhytoHealth has the worldwide exclusive rights of these patented technologies. Another botanical drug for rheumatoid arthritis, PG27 is an effective immunosuppressor. It is superior than Cyclosporin A in immunosuppression tested in animal models. PhytoHealth has the worldwide exclusive rights of this product.

Protech Pharmaservices Corporation

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Founded in 1997, Protech Pharmaservices Corp. (PPC), is recognized by the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry as a multi-discipline, inter-regionalized CRO that provides clinical research and contract laboratory services in the US and the Asia-Pacific region.

Besides PPC's clinical research expertise, PPC Central Laboratory in Taiwan started to provide bioanalytical and clinical laboratory services in 2001, with its internationally recognized quality operations and certification status. Drawing from a team of more than 160 professionals from extensive and multiple disciplines, PPC is the only CRO company in Taiwan capable of conducting pharmacokinetic studies and phase I studies simultaneously, and is one of the pioneer CRO companies in Asia capable of providing pharmacoeconomic research services.

ProMed CRC, our Orlando-based Clinical Research Center, assures our sponsors with top quality IND studies at its 50-bed facility in the US. And in Asia, our ICH-GCP-compliant operations have been fueled by our staff's professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication, which have resulted in the increased number of contract research projects and customer satisfactions over the years. In the Asia-Pacific area where local practice and sensitivity plays a pivotal role in the successful conduction of any clinical research studies, PPC continues to establish branch operations in Japan, China, Singapore/ Malaysia, etc.

While providing its own professional clinical trial services, PPC also works closely with alliances in the US, Europe, and Japan for the global clinical research projects. PPC is an "inter-regionalized" CRO that has devoted itself to supporting new drug development in a variety of therapeutic areas. The company longs for the opportunities of demonstrating its service capacities and capabilities to the clients as it has been privileged to serve many of its sponsors, such as Abbott, Aventis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Wyeth, and many local/regional biopharmaceutical companies.

StatPlus, Inc.

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Founded in 1996, StatPlus, Inc. is a leading international contract research organization maintaining offices in the US (Pennsylvania and California). Co-founders Dr. Shein-Chung Chow and Dr. Huey Lin Ju are both highly experienced and well respected statisticians in the drug research and development arena.

A staff of experienced clinical scientists, statisticians and data managers work as a team to deliver high quality products. And with distinguished consultants on staff to provide technical guidance and supervision, StatPlus is committed to provide quality services in the fields of biopharmaceutical applications.

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For over 50 years, Sun Ten has been renowned as a manufacturer of concentrated herbal extracts. Sun Ten products are recognized throughout the world and earning several manufacturing contracts through the company's technical knowledge and analytical skills.

Sun Ten has developed a unique manufacturing process that allows for the controlling of decoction sequence, decoction time, and temperature control, recovery of essential oil to ensure efficacy, spray drying to enhance product quality. With strict quality control procedure on raw herbs, Sun Ten Quality Control ensure safe and consistent products from batch to batch.

Owning their own research institute sets Sun Ten apart from the industry; Brion Research Institute of Taiwan has a collection of over 2000 herb specimens, plant characteristics, plant parts used and harvesting locations. Aside from collecting herbal plant database, toxicology research, pharmacological assays are important tasks of the Center.

Sun Ten is bringing their experience and expertise to collaborate with international organizations for co-developing international patented botanical drug products. As a leader in TCM herbal extracts in Taiwan for half a century, the company is committed to focus on biotechnological innovations in bringing concentrated herbal extracts into the global mainstream.

TaiGen Biotechnology Co., Ltd.

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Founded in May 2001, TaiGen Biotechnology is a Taiwan-based biotech/pharmaceutical company formed on the basis of the established platform technology of arena pharmaceuticals and the expertise of Dr. Ming-Chu Hsu in pharmaceutical R&D in the US and Taiwan.

To harness TaiGen's ability to discover drugs, Dr. Hsu has put together a drug discovery team of scientists from the US and Taiwan. One area TaiGen is pursuing is the field of small molecular drug discovery, employing Arena's platform of constitutively activated receptor technology (CART)-activated G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) to develop GPCR agonists and antagonists for treatment of cancer and inflammatory diseases.

Arena's CART technology enables rapid drug discovery based on genomic sequence for the GPCR gene family. CART allows for ligand-independent, direct identification of small molecule compounds that regulate the activity of G protein-coupled receptors, with CART particularly useful with respect to orphan GPCRs that are estimated to comprise approximately 2 percent of the human genome. The CART platform and TaiGen's experienced drug discovery team will enable the company to compete with innovation and efficiently in new drug R&D.

The company will be involved in drug development through in-licensing of promising drug candidates as well. TaiGen plans to evaluate in-licensing compounds of which clinical development can be done cost-effectively in Taiwan for the world market. Such capability provides a competitive edge for the company to continue interest potential product licensors in the worldwide pharmaceutical communities.

TaiGen is the first Asian biotech company to have funding from MPM Capital, the largest biotech venture capital worldwide, among its other investors. And by maintaining a sustainable product pipeline through corporate alliances with international biotech companies, TaiGen intends to achieve further strategic growth and remain competitive.

Taiwan Genome Sciences, Inc.

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Taiwan Genome Sciences (TGS) is building itself as a leading informatics-driven and clinical-genomic based drug discovery company, with its therapeutic focus on cancers prevalent in the region. Pulling together a team of experienced clinicians and scientists specialized in clinical medicine, molecular biology, computational biology and clinical information management, TGS has developed a high throughput drug discovery pipeline that will fully integrate the clinical information with an array of innovative genomics tools.

TGS is developing a proprietary discovery platform to integrate arrays of innovative tools that will allow its scientists to perform high-throughput drug target discovery with support of an integrated clinical information management system on a genome-wide scale. The company's unique information-driven discovery approach will direct all research efforts on therapeutically relevant gene products.

The non-proprietary part of TGS's discovery platform is accessible to researchers in the region through either fees-for-service contracts or sponsored research basis. Easily applicable to all diseases and biological systems, the high-throughput drug target discovery service assembles integrated tools that are valuable to medical researchers, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. The genome information services include DNA-related methodologies such as subtraction library constructions, genomic library construction, colony picking, RNA hybridization, gene expression data analysis, sequencing, oligonuceotide synthesis and microarray spotting and analysis services.

To develop clinical applications, TGS constantly seeks for collaborative relationship with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. In March 2001, TGS built a research collaboration with PhenoGenomics Corporation, a Seattle US-based company, focusing on the discovery of novel therapeutic targets for human diseases. PhenoGenomics is assembling integrated genomics technologies with a proprietary bioinformatics pipeline to support the high throughput, large-scale drug target identification process. Hence the alliance between TGS and PhenoGenomics Corporation will enhance the strength of each company in working towards relieving the sufferings of cancer patients.

As a part of TGS collaboration effort, TGS's latest Genomic Traditional Chinese Medicine (G-TCM) Research Program demonstrates the application of key technologies platform on areas of local advantages. A consortium made up of local biotechnology companies and university research laboratories, the G-TCM program consolidates expert knowledge in genomics, proteomics, clinical sciences, and experience-based information on traditional Chinese herbal medicines.

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Taiwan Salt Industrial Corp. (TSIC), a state-run enterprise, has responded to the privatization trend by transforming its businesses. With two factories presently facilitated to produce microbial inoculants for plant protection and biomaterials for wound dressing, TSIC aims to expand its business to biotechnology.

The first of TSIC's biotech factory produces wound dressing related products. The first collagen plant in Taiwan, TSIC's technology partner is BioCore Medical Technologies, a company based in Kansas, US that has been engaged in the research, production and marketing of collagen-based biomaterials since 1988. Two of TSIC's products, SkinTemp and Medifil, have been approved by US FDA and are reimbursable through Medicare. These products are targeted for severe burn victims, diabetic patients and stroke patients who have wounds, bedsore or ulcers.

The second biotech factory mainly produces microbial agents for biocontrol and organic farming. The major production facilities include batch-type fermentation system, green house and post-stage formulation equipment. The company is working with the National Science Council, Council of Agriculture, as well as other domestic and foreign research institutes to develop new products.

Three microbial products are being developed at TSIC to alleviate concerns about the deterioration of the current agricultural production environment. BS is a biofungicide applied to control fungal disease caused by soil-borne pathogens. SS, a bionematocide, is used to control root knot disease due to nematode invasion while VAMF is a symbiotic fungus that acts as a biofertilizer to enhance plant growth and promote phosphate efficiency.

Tyson Bioresearch, Inc.

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Within a short time since the company's establishment in 1999, Tyson Bioresearch, Inc. has built a global reputation for supplying quality products and efficient customer support. Employing some of the most sophisticated engineering available to provide cutting edge technology, Tyson utilizes the Quality Management System pentagon (QMS) to supply quality products and efficient customer support.

The QMS pyramid consists of five operating methods that are important for quality service, namely: research & development, purchasing, production, sales/marketing and delivery. The management team consists of the scientists and support staffs that ensure these five operating methods are carefully monitored to guarantee that Tyson maintains its place as a world-class biotech organization.

Following the standards of being an ISO 9001 certified and cGMP-licensed manufacturer, Tyson ensures that the company's products will meet worldwide standards. The product line includes a range of kits in the Microwell and Membrane Enzyme Immunoassay technology for the detection of infectious diseases such as HIV 1/2, HCV and TB. In addition, Tyson also produces a complete line of Self Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) System, which adopts the latest advancement in biosensor technology. For this SMBG System, we are proud of the first CE mark approved company in Taiwan.

U-Vision Biotech, Inc.

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Founded in 1999, U-Vision Biotech, Inc. has built upon platform technology of phytocompounds identification and validation which combined techniques of organic chemistry, genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics and biochip development to speed up drug lead discovery and validation for botanical drug development processes.

Developing microfabricated tools for botanical drug lead discoveries in diabetes, obesity and wound healing, as well as molecule-based detection tools in pathogens, disease and GMO, the company's commitment to research and development is apparent in the product pipelines, scientific publication and intellectual properties.

U-Vision's two notable product lines (patent pending), EasySpot™ Microarray Slides (coated slide for immobilization of oligonucleotides, cDNA and peptide) and hybridization reagentpolymer technology to shorten hybridization time period from 16 hours to within an hour, and SAFE™ PCR diagnostic kits (*E.coil* 0157:H7 and TB) are among the most successful and practical microarray biochip substrate and microbial diagnostic kit, respectively, ever launched.

A key component to the company's business model is the Adipochip package, including functional microarrays (BrownSugar chip™ and Herbal Chip™), its derived database and its associated analysis software to revolutionize drug discovery process and our understanding to many metabolic diseases.

Through this innovative and proprietary prototype product, U-Vision is able to identify novel therapeutic targets by providing early diagnostic information and understanding of complex disease process such as obesity and diabetes.

U-Vision also provides consulting and research service in development of diagnostic marker hunting, microarray generation, and phytocompounds identification. Furthermore, U-Vision is the first R&D-strived biotech in Taiwan and the first technology exporter, transferring genetic algorithm and HTS bioassays to Japan (Kotobiken laboratories and Josai Hospital).

Virginia Contract Research Organization Co., Ltd.

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With the mission to accelerate health science products development in Taiwan and the Asia Pacific region, Virginia Contract Research Organization Co., Ltd. (VCRO) was founded by Dr. Chun-Chun Li in July 1997. Back when the idea of utilizing outsourced contract clinical research was relatively new to the Taiwanese industries, VCRO pioneered the market in clinical research training.

Through delivering professional training for potential clients, VCRO demonstrated its capability and commitment in contract clinical research. Signing the first clinical research contract with Searle Pharma, Taiwan in 1997, VCRO has enjoyed more than 90% growth in project counts in average each year from 1997 to 2001, accumulatively signing more than 172 projects in the past five years.

To achieve continuous growth with respect to service scope and professional resources, VCRO has expanded her service range in 2001 to incorporate bioanalytical laboratory and pharmacokinetic services for the purpose of FULL clinical research service range, namely, phase I to IV. VCRO's contract research service scope for the development of human health service related products includes pre-clinical researches, central laboratory, contract formulation and contract clinical trial dispensaries in the territory of Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Vita Genomics, Inc.

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Established in 2001 to focus on genomics research in the Pacific Rim area, Vita Genomics, Inc. (VG) is a company organized and managed by a group of renowned American scientists and senior biotechnology/pharmaceutical executives of Chinese descent.

VG intends to capitalize on this burgeoning business opportunity by positioning itself as the premier genomics-based company, focusing on high throughput sequencing, improving biological products, and understanding diseases prevalent in the Asia Pacific region.

VG has made progress in establishing a cutting-edge high throughput sequencing facility to investigate Asian specific DNA variants in human populations and a large number of commercially important crop and lifestock genomes. A gene and drug discovery infrastructure has also been established, based on the best breed technologies from Celera and VG's other partners.

In addition to developing a proprietary set of databases relevant to Asian-specific genotypes, VG is also in the process of conducting research efforts in major diseases prevalent among Asians and leveraging infrastructure to meet needs for large-scale genomic analysis and product adaptation and improvement for Asian-specific markets.

Having built up strong relationships with research institutions and medical organizations in Taiwan, VG would further seek strategic alliances with other Asian companies to expand its scale.