



PRESS RELEASE

GE HEALTHCARE AND BAC ANNOUNCE STRATEGIC COLLABORATION IN BIOPHARMACEUTICAL PURIFICATION

CHALFONT ST. GILES, UK AND NAARDEN, THE NETHERLANDS, OCTOBER 19 2006 - GE Healthcare, a unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE), and BAC BV, the Bio Affinity Company, announced today that they have entered into a strategic collaboration in the affinity ligand and chromatographic media area. Under the terms of the agreement, the two companies will develop new affinity chromatography media for human antibodies and adeno-associated virus (AAV) viral vector purification. The first products are expected to be commercially available during 2007 through GE Healthcare's Custom Designed Media business. The collaboration is expected to generate several new innovative affinity chromatography media solutions for biopharmaceutical manufacture and drug discovery research.

"This collaboration will allow us to expand our current range of ligand technologies and libraries, enabling us to develop more efficient purification processes for our customers in biopharmaceutical manufacturing," said Ann O'Hara, General Manager of BioProcess for GE Healthcare.

"As a well established market leader, GE Healthcare is the perfect partner for us," said Dr. Laurens Sierkstra, CEO of BAC. "This Agreement underlines their confidence in our CaptureSelect® products and clearly validates our technology as a giant step forward in the purification of pharmaceutical products. "

ABOUT GE HEALTHCARE

GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies that are shaping a new age of patient care. GE Healthcare's expertise in medical imaging and information technologies, medical diagnostics, patient monitoring and life support systems, disease research, drug discovery, and biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies is helping physicians detect disease earlier and tailor personalized treatments for their patients. GE

Healthcare offers a broad range of products and services that are improving productivity in healthcare and enhancing patient care by enabling healthcare providers to better diagnose and treat cancer, heart disease, neurological diseases, and other conditions.

Headquartered in the United Kingdom, GE Healthcare is a \$15 billion unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE). Worldwide, GE Healthcare employs more than 43,000 people committed to serving healthcare professionals and their patients in more than 100 countries. For more information about GE Healthcare, visit our website at www.gehealthcare.com.

ABOUT BAC

BAC BV - The Bio Affinity Company - offers unique products for affinity purification. These CaptureSelect® products, based on proprietary single domain antibody fragments, are efficiently produced in-house using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. CaptureSelect® products possess a combination of unique properties such as stability, affinity and selectivity that provides competitive benefits in terms of reduced cost of purification, higher quality product and increased flexibility in the purification process. BAC BV, a Unilever spin-off, was established in 1995, with an R&D laboratory facility in Vlaardingen and a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Naarden, the Netherlands. Currently the company employs 28 people. For more information about BAC, visit our website at www.bac.nl. For more information about CaptureSelect® products, visit our website at www.captureselect.com

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