

South Yorkshire Bioscience Enterprise Network Newsletter



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BEP Manager Appointed



The Yorkshire Forward Biotechnology Exploitation Platform (YFBEP) is coming up to its 4th month of service since it formed in October 2000, and has recently welcomed aboard its new manager, Dr Louise Byass. The aim of the Platform is to stimulate and facilitate the commercialisation of bioscience across the Yorkshire and Humber region. It allows research institutes protection of

intellectual property, allows licensing and spin off ventures, plus the transfer of knowledge and research into regional business.

Dr Louise Byass has the ability and enthusiasm to utilise and promote these aims. Technology transfer holds a special interest for Dr Byass who believes it is 'exciting and an increasingly important aspect of research due to changing culture and emphasis within the academic community.'

Dr Byass has been involved in bioscience to a very specialised level and may draw on a wealth of bioscience experience. Her involvement in research and also through commercial experience, gained during her time at Biocode Ltd, York, and also through her work with Unilever, which resulted in the filing of three patents, provides Dr Byass with a strong bioscience background.

Dr Byass is a woman who shows enthusiasm, motivation and determination in her work and is a great asset to the BEP. We would like to welcome her to the post and to wish her all the best for the future.

For more information about bioscience advances or the YFBEP contact Dr. David Parkinson on 0114 225-3052

South Yorkshire Focus on Bioscience

NabarroNathanson Biosciences Group

BioLaw is a specialist service offered by NabarroNathanson to bioscience business, from national offices in London, Reading and Sheffield. The firm combines legal and industrial expertise through the qualities and technical qualifications of the biosciences team.

The firm employs a number of staff with scientific qualifications including four biochemists, two chemists and a biologist as well as two electrical engineers, and an engineer.

The aim of the firm is to help clients achieve a competitive advantage by providing cost effective and practical legal advice. Major areas of expertise lie in property, IT, corporate and corporate finance and its Intellectual Property expertise.

On the property side, NabarroNathanson is recognized as being one of the leading property firms, acting for a number of property companies with interests in bioparks. It acted for Dencora plc (before it was sold, last year), owner/manager of the Sittingbourne Research Centre, and helped create the joint venture between St John's College Cambridge and Bride Hall Ltd to create the Cambridge Science Park.

The firm acts for a number of bioinformatics companies and IT companies active in the bioscience sector, and is also active for companies on corporate and corporate finance deals. The group has acted on core deal types for the bioscience industry such as QTP's investment in Cellfactors and Genpak Ltd's recent acquisition pre-float, among others.

On the IP front the firm holds a unique patent and trademark filing/practise team of four. The firm is already prosecuting biotechnology related patents.

The Bioscience group is dedicated to providing practical solutions, offering experience and understanding of the bioscience sector. For further information contact Lin Cheung, Nabarro Nathanson, 1 South Quay, Victoria Quays, Sheffield, S2 5SY. Tel: 0114 279 4156 Fax: 0114 278 6123 or email: L.cheung@nabarro.com

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ALcontrol Laboratories New Developments



Rotherham based company, ALcontrol Laboratories has

over 25 years experience in waters, air, land and food testing and is part of one of the largest independent analysis organisations in Europe.

Here in the UK, ALcontrol Laboratories operates under three distinct brands, reflecting the type of analysis provided, ALcontrol Air & Waters, ALcontrol Food and ALcontrol Geochem (contaminated land). From its network of laboratories, ALcontrol provides high quality, UKAS accredited, chemical and microbiological analysis to a diverse range of customers.

Significant investment has been made in Rotherham with the addition, in 1999, of a £3 million state of the art laboratory extension to the existing facilities.

Recent developments in ALcontrol's Air & Waters business include receiving approval from the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) to carry out *cryptosporidium* analysis on drinking waters under the new Water Supply (Water Quality) Amendment 1999. This complements the existing *cryptosporidium* analysis capability utilising flow cytometry techniques.

Other new developments are in the field of ecotoxicity testing. Toxicity tests are one of the essential tools in evaluating the effects of anthropogenic stress in aquatic ecosystems. Providing a valuable resource across areas of industrial effluent, industrial processes and river and estuarine analysis, ALcontrol offers, along with conventional ecotoxicity testing, a novel method involving test kits. The test kits method offers a cheaper, faster and more versatile alternative to conventional methodology whilst retaining the same sensitivity.

These miniaturised tests – kit forms of the cyst-based bioassays- are making a global impact on toxicity testing. ALcontrol believes the kits developed by Prof. G. Persoone and his team at the University of Ghent in Belgium offer a viable alternative to existing methods. Incorporated into the kit are all the key materials necessary to perform the test: 'preserved' bio-indicator, experimental vessels and reagents.

For further information contact Lee Martin, ALcontrol Laboratories, Templeborough House, Mill Close, Rotherham S60 1BZ.

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Items for SYBEN Newsletter

If you have any news or announcements that you want to publicise about your company or organisation, please send them to SYBEN by email or as hardcopy.

Bio-Opps

Opinions and Opportunities in Bioscience

Human Genome Project Officially Complete

Sunday 11th February 2001 heralded the completion of the Human Genome Project (HGP). The Sanger Centre, near Cambridge, worked in collaboration with 16 other research centres to determine the 4 billion-letter sequence of the human genome. The outcome promises many new therapies for diseases, including Alzheimer's, cancer and heart disease.

Companies utilising information arising from the HGP are expecting high returns. The bioinformatics market will soon exceed £1 billion per year. Some pharmaceutical companies are valued at hundreds of billions of pounds depending on their ability to exploit genomic information in the development of drugs. Over 100 small drug and biotech companies are involved in obtaining a total of £3 billion for research and development. Some such as Human Genome Sciences, Millennium and CuraGen are forming partnerships with big drug companies to help them grow. Celera, Gene Logic, Affymetrix and Incyte are spending billions on software and hardware. Information technology giants, Motorola and IBM are focusing on the supply and analysis of microarrays and other biochips. Current research into the human genome has already provided insights into how genetic diseases arise and into our evolutionary development. It was also discovered that many genes have been inherited directly from bacteria, which now have crucial roles to play: in the metabolism of antibiotics, alcohol and psychiatric drugs. This provides important clues, both with regard to our evolution and in the mechanisms and development of new treatments for human diseases.

Beta Technology Ltd Offers Research Funding for Life Science Companies

European research funding is available for Life Science companies at all stages of development. **The Fifth Framework Programme** is the European Commission funded Research and Development Programme and has four major divisions.

- **Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources:** includes biotechnology, agriculture, food and fisheries
- **User Friendly Information Society:** incorporates information technology
- **Competitive and Sustainable Growth:** covers manufacturing, production, transport, measurements and testing
- **Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development.** *10% of the budget for each division is set-aside specifically for SMEs.*

The Work Programme for 'Framework Programme Five' is currently available from Beta Technology Ltd, detailing the criteria and deadlines for the submission of research proposals. The advice Beta Technology gives is free and confidential. For further information contact: Lucy Coffey, Beta Technology Ltd, Barclay Court, Doncaster Carr, Doncaster DN4 5HZ. Tel: 01302 322 633. Fax: 01302 388 800, website:

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