

Phytowelt GreenTechnologies Press Release

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Europe is still a stronghold in Plant Genome Research and Biotechnology Development, but profits will be gained elsewhere

Plant genomics holds the promise of describing the entire genetic repertoire of plants. The exploitation of this knowledge and innovative applications in breeding and farming will lead to efficient and sustained production of food, feed, energy and industrial materials while concurrently reducing the environmental impact associated with farming practices and manufacturing processes. The European Commission wants to build its biobased economy with plant biotechnology playing an important role in their planning.

The invitation to give talks at the ABIC conference 2006 from 6 - 9 August in Melbourne (Australia) and at the annual Meeting of AGD 2006 from 22-23 September in Cologne (Germany) is a clear sign for Peter Welters, the CEO of Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH that European expertise in plant biotechnology is still in demand and that European SMEs will be part of the business worldwide.

“As an expert for fundamental genomics for the European Commission I saw a wide range of very competitive proposals, Dr. Welters explains. Together with our own experience as an SME in plant biotechnology I can tell that our know-how in plant genomics and exploitation of biodiversity is competitive compared to the rest of the world. What is lacking are opportunities to commercialize our technology in Europe.” In his opinion, European Plant Biotechnology is facing the same fate as the Transrapid, an innovative magnetic high-speed train system developed in Europe. Because of concerns of environmentalists this technology could not be brought to reality in Europe and was transferred to China where the first commercial line is operating in Shanghai. But getting the benefits back to Europe is becoming more and more difficult! Similarly, the results and benefits of the huge plant genome projects in Germany, France and Spain and other efforts in Europe will be commercialized elsewhere, probably in the Asian-Pacific part of the world. Phytowelt has its major clients in New Zealand, Japan, Canada and the USA.

The ABIC Foundation formed in 1998 is a non-profit corporation based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Following the successful completion of ABIC'98, it was established to secure the continued success of the ABIC series. This year the **ABIC2006** will take place between

6 - 9 August 2006 in Melbourne (Australia).

For further information please visit: www.abic2006.org

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Gendiagnostik e.V. (AGD, Consortium for Gene Diagnostics e.V) was founded 1984 in Düsseldorf (Germany). The AGD supports and imparts interdisciplinary scientific knowledge in the field of Genome Research by technology transfer and support of junior scientists. The annual **AGD Meeting 2006** will be hold between **22 – 23 September in Cologne** (Germany).

For further information visit: www.agdev.de

Phytowelt GreenTechnologies was founded in January 2006 as a merger of Phytowelt GmbH and GreenTec GmbH; a Spin off company of the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Cologne (Germany). The company offers services in plant biotechnology, including contract research, studies and project coordination and management. The key expertises are plant breeding and the development of improved methods, like several tissue culture technologies and genetic engineering, for sustained production, e.g. of fine chemical substances. Based on its long year practical experience, the company has a large technological knowledge, especially with the handling of challenging plant material.

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