

**To the Press:**

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**Exiqon launches advanced on-line tool for design of LNA™ gapmers for inhibition of mRNA and lncRNA**

Exiqon A/S (NASDAQ OMX: EXQ), a leading supplier of high-value gene expression analysis products, today announced an extension to the LNA™ longRNA GapmeR product line with the launch of a novel on-line bioinformatics tool for the design of custom LNA™-gapmer antisense oligonucleotides for specific and efficient inhibition of mRNA and lncRNA.

The new on-line LNA™ gapmer design tool allows scientists to effortlessly design optimal LNA™ gapmers through a simple and intuitive interface.

The tool provides a ranked list of LNA™ gapmer designs that takes into account more than 30 design criteria in the evaluation of more than 100,000 different *in silico* designs which allows the scientist to quickly select preferred designs and product format. The underlying software to the new on-line LNA™ gapmer design tool includes important performance parameters such as LNA spiking pattern, target accessibility, secondary structures and potential off-targets based on searches against several gene databases including ENSEMBL.

The design tool is wet-lab validated with hundreds of LNA™ gapmer antisense oligonucleotides having been tested in cell cultures and in animal models.

New to Exiqon's LNA™ longRNA GapmeR product offering is a number of carefully selected and wet-lab validated negative control assays.

*"The new on-line design tool is perfectly suited for scientists who have identified interesting targets for instance by next generation sequence analysis and would like to understand the functionality of such targets"* says Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Henrik M. Pfundheller and continues *"Since the launch of the product line earlier this year we have seen a very rapid adaptation by our customers which I believe is due to the substantial body of scientific literature supporting the superior performance of LNA™ gapmers"*.

LNA™ longRNA GapmeRs are high affinity antisense oligonucleotides used for functional analysis that allow researchers to study the gene function and downstream biological implications of silencing a specific mRNA or long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) in cell-cultures or animal models. The unique LNA™-enhanced design of the LNA™ longRNA GapmeR offers superior performance compared to alternative RNA silencing methods including siRNA. Even targets located in the nucleus are effectively silenced by the LNA™ longRNA GapmeRs. The incorporation of LNA™ increases bio-stability which secures the biological activity over an extended period of time and provides excellent pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics properties including high stability and low toxicity making them ideal for *in vivo* testing.

Exiqon offers a range of compatible LNA™ enhanced products for mRNA and lncRNA research including products for qPCR and *in situ* hybridization analysis.

Information about the LNA™ longRNA GapmeRs is available here: <http://www.exiqon.com/gapmers>

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**About Exiqon**

Exiqon's products are based on the proprietary LNA™ technology. This technology offers unique advantages for detection of miRNA biomarkers for life science researchers, drug developers and cancer treating physicians working towards personalizing medicine. Exiqon operates in two business areas: Exiqon Life Sciences has established a position for itself as one of the market's leading providers of miRNA research products for miRNA analysis in cells. Our research products are used by academia, biotech and pharmaceutical companies around the world to make groundbreaking discoveries about the correlation between gene activity and the development of cancer and other diseases. Exiqon Life Sciences is also collaborating with pharmaceutical companies in their effort to develop new medicines based on miRNA as biological markers. Exiqon Diagnostics collaborates with pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies to develop novel molecular diagnostic tests for early detection of diseases which can help physicians make treatment decisions. Exiqon is listed on the NASDAQ OMX in Copenhagen. For more information about us, please visit [www.exiqon.com](http://www.exiqon.com).

