

PRESS RELEASE**Exiqon launches miRCURY™ LNA microRNA PCR System for ultra-sensitive microRNA detection and quantification****RT-PCR solution designed for microRNA quantification from minute RNA samples and single cells**Exiqon A/S
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Exiqon A/S (EXQ.CO), a leading supplier of high-value gene expression analysis products today announced the miRCURY™ LNA microRNA PCR system, a novel solution for highly-sensitive microRNA detection and quantification by real-time PCR.

The new system is the result of a recent licensing agreement with Rosetta Inpharmatics LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc. Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, which developed and qualified the PCR platform based on Exiqon's proprietary LNA™ technology. The miRCURY™ LNA microRNA PCR system was successfully designed to overcome the challenges of quantifying specific microRNAs.

The system employs LNA™-enhanced PCR primers to enable direct priming of the microRNA target, resulting in fast, accurate, and highly-sensitive quantification of microRNA levels with an 8-log dynamic range.

"The miRCURY™ LNA microRNA PCR system is so sensitive, it can detect and quantify microRNAs from as little as 10 pg RNA starting material or from a single cell," explained Søren Møller, Ph.D., vice president, microRNA research and product development at Exiqon. "This unique capability makes it the most sensitive microRNA PCR system available to life scientists."

The complete and optimized three-component PCR system includes everything required for microRNA quantification: first-strand cDNA synthesis kit, SYBR® Green master mix, and microRNA specific primer sets.

Louisa Cheung, a scientist in professor Gunnar Norstedt's laboratory at the Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska Institutet in Sweden noted, "In a recent study, we used Exiqon's miRCURY™ LNA microRNA PCR System to validate microarray data. We found it to be a highly reproducible, accurate, and very sensitive microRNA qPCR methodology. And in comparison to other PCR methods, Exiqon's PCR system demonstrated a very low risk of false negative results."



The addition of the real-time PCR system expands Exiqon's miRCURY™ LNA microRNA product portfolio, and expands Exiqon's portfolio of research tools for microRNA expression analysis. The company now offers the most comprehensive package of applications for microRNA research, the fastest growing field of research in life science research.

“Delivering this system so quickly will help our customers accelerate important microRNA research,” Lars Kongsbak, Ph.D., president & CEO stated. “It’s a commitment we made to them when we launched the company publicly in May of last year.”

About LNA™

LNA is a class of nucleotide analogues that bind very strongly to RNA and DNA targets. By including LNA in the primers for the real-time PCR, it is possible to increase the specificity of the assay and make the primers shorter.

About miRNA

microRNAs (miRNAs) are a novel class of regulatory RNA molecules with surprisingly widespread effects on gene regulation. Although recently identified as a class of molecules, initial studies indicate that microRNAs may regulate 30% or more of all genes in the genome, thus comprising an up till now hidden level of regulation. Interestingly, microRNAs have already been found to play important roles in several types of cancers and in processes involved in cellular differentiation. In the cell, microRNAs are found in the form of single-stranded RNA molecules, which are typically 20-25 nucleotides long in their active form.

About quantitative real-time PCR

Quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction, is a laboratory technique used to simultaneously quantify and amplify a specific part of a given RNA molecule. It is used to determine whether or not a specific sequence is present in the sample; and if it is present, the number of copies in the sample. It is a modification of polymerase chain reaction.

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