

Press Release

Tapping into the power of DNA for meat traceability

Ebersberg, Germany, 17th February 2020

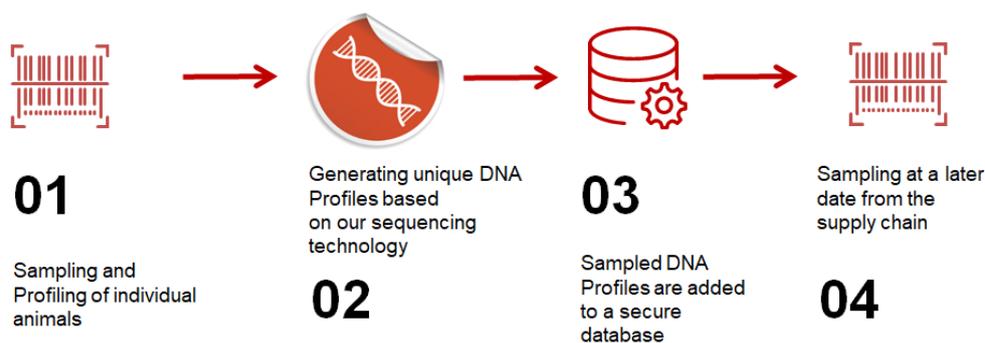
There are many big challenges facing the food and agribusiness industries globally. One of these challenges is combatting food fraud and adulteration. Fraud costs the global industry billions of dollars annually, which is not only a huge financial cost, but also a reputational one. A second major challenge is assuring customers of product quality, given the increasing global demand for transparency.

Eurofins Genomics can now offer a newly developed service, based on Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), that is able to trace meat throughout the supply chain with the highest precision possible. This technology is therefore able to improve end to end supply chain visibility.

NGS, also known as high-throughput sequencing, is DNA sequencing technology that allows for the analysis of samples and systems at a level that was not possible before. NGS machines can sequence large sample numbers more cost-effectively than traditional methods and, in the process, also generate more detailed genomic information.

DNA is present in each single cell and is unique to each individual. It also is highly stable against various processes and is therefore present throughout the whole beef supply chain. Due to these reasons, using DNA provides indisputable evidence of traceability. Furthermore, DNA analysis provides a rapid, secure and cost-effective method of identification.

Eurofins Genomics' new offering, DNA SourceTracker, takes samples from each individual animal and generates a DNA profile which is unique for each animal sample. These profiles are then stored in a customised database which facilitates sample comparison throughout the supply chain. You can see this process flow illustrated in the image below:



From an industry perspective, there are significant advantages to being able to identify the individual source of meat products. Producers of premium meat products can use such technology to assure their retailers, distributors and end consumers of their product's origin. More generally, such technology will enable the food industry to eliminate meat fraud and adulteration throughout global supply chains, thereby protecting food brands and safeguarding consumer loyalty.

DNA SourceTracker can trace every single meat product available throughout the supply chain back to an individual animal. Eurofins Genomics sees a growing market trend of using genomics-based testing to determine food authenticity, traceability and safety. DNA

SourceTracker uses NGS to offer traceability per sample within a faster turnaround time and with a higher resolution than ever before.

“This highly scalable and novel technique proves our commitment to developing innovative technologies that increase transparency and quality for end consumers” comments Dr. Michael Hadem, Managing Director of Eurofins Genomics Europe.

Combatting fraud and false claims

DNA, unique to each individual animal, ensures that customers and partners along a supply chain can finally completely trust the source of their meat. It protects the farmers, exporters, importers, retailers, and end consumers from the ever-existing issue of fraud.

Furthermore, should a marker or packaging label be lost and a dispute arises as to the origin of that meat, DNA could be used as the indisputable evidence.

Increasing consumer trust and loyalty

Consumer trust and loyalty is an increasingly challenging issue for businesses worldwide. Our full farm to plate solution is able to place back that trust into the ever complex supply chains, and assure customers that the products they are buying adhere to food safety, ethical, environmental and cultural practices. It is simply no longer enough to place a label on a package stating that products are sustainably produced – consumers want to know exactly how products are made and where they come from.

Visit the service page to learn more: <https://go.eurofinsgenomics.eu/meat> or email DNASourceTracker@eurofins.com

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Notes to Editors:

About Eurofins Genomics

Eurofins Genomics, a member of the Eurofins Group with facilities in Europe, the United States and Asia, is an internationally leading provider of DNA sequencing services, next generation sequencing services, genotyping services, DNA synthesis products and bioinformatics services for pharma, diagnostics, food, agriculture, biotechnological and research markets. The company's strength is its extensive customer base and high quality services in industrial scale for the life science industries and academic research institutions around the world. For further information, please visit our website at eurofinsgenomics.com.

About Eurofins – a global leader in bio-analysis

Eurofins Scientific through its subsidiaries (hereinafter sometimes “Eurofins” or “the Group”) believes it is a scientific leader in food, environment, pharmaceutical and cosmetics products testing and in agrosience CRO services. It is also one of the global independent market leaders in certain testing and laboratory services for genomics, discovery pharmacology, forensics, CDMO, advanced material sciences and for supporting clinical studies. In addition, Eurofins is one of the leading global emerging players in specialty clinical diagnostic testing. With about 45,000 staff in more than 800 laboratories across 47 countries, Eurofins offers a portfolio of over 200,000 analytical methods for evaluating the safety, identity, composition, authenticity, origin and purity of biological substances and products, as well as for innovative clinical diagnostic. The Group objective is to provide its customers with high-quality services, accurate results on time and expert advice by its highly qualified staff.

Eurofins is committed to pursuing its dynamic growth strategy by expanding both its technology portfolio and its geographic reach. Through R&D and acquisitions, the Group draws on the latest developments in the field of biotechnology and analytical chemistry to offer its clients unique analytical solutions and the most comprehensive range of testing methods.

As one of the most innovative and quality oriented international players in its industry, Eurofins is ideally positioned to support its clients' increasingly stringent quality and safety standards and the expanding demands of regulatory authorities around the world.

The shares of Eurofins Scientific are listed on the Euronext Paris Stock Exchange (ISIN FR0000038259, Reuters EUFI.PA, Bloomberg ERF FP).

Important disclaimer:

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