

MICROBIO AWARDED AMGC SUPPORT FOR SOVEREIGN MANUFACTURE OF BIOTHREAT TESTS

Brisbane, Australia, 3 February 2022: Australian biotech company Microbio has been awarded an Australian Government Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) co-investment of \$407,000 to enable the company to establish sovereign manufacturing capabilities in Australia for a test to identify potential biological threats.

The company will manufacture specific oligonucleotides, a unique component used in its core product InfectID-BSI, InfectID-COVID and InfectID-SSBA: its patented one-tube, seven-pathogen test to rapidly detect Security Sensitive Biological Agents (SSBAs).

Oligonucleotides are short sections of laboratory-created DNA and are a key component of Microbio's suite of InfectID tests, which include bloodstream infection and COVID diagnostic tests in addition to the SSBA test.

Microbio Chief Executive Officer, Paul Carboon said AMGC's support would allow Microbio sovereign manufacturing capabilities of oligonucleotides whilst protecting its homegrown IP.

"InfectID-Bloodstream infection is entering the clinical trials phase," said Mr Carboon.

"Now with AMGC's support, we will take InfectID-SSBA to the point where we can begin in-field trials," Mr Carboon said.

"We are currently seeking parties that would like to work with us to test InfectID-SSBA in defence and civilian trials."

AMGC Managing Director, Dr Jens Goennemann stated that Microbio's project is a great example of the innovative products that will deliver sovereign benefits through being manufactured in Australia.

"Microbio's products will create highly innovative and skilled jobs, while also establishing new manufacturing capability in Australia. Its InfectID system also has the potential to improve the health and wellbeing of defence personnel and civilians both locally and abroad," said Dr Goennemann.

Microbio's InfectID-SSBA diagnostic tool was developed in collaboration with DMTC's Medical Countermeasures Initiative (MCMi), Queensland University of Technology and Defence scientists.

DMTC's MCMi Program Leader, Dr Felicia Pradera said it was gratifying to acknowledge AMGC's support for the InfectID-SSBA project.

"Projects like this that build on the outcomes of DMTC collaborations are critical to ensure that research expertise, Intellectual Property and industrial capability stays here in Australia," said Dr Pradera.

For more information, visit microbio.com.au/about

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For media enquiries contact:

Nicole Panoutsos | Wrights | +61 423 506 714 | npanoutsos@wrights.com.au

About Microbio

Microbio is an Australian biotechnology company based in Brisbane. The team at Microbio has brought together the latest advances in bioinformatics, genomics and molecular microbiology to develop a unique and revolutionary pathogen detection test. The Microbio team is working tirelessly to deliver their game-changing new test to the millions of patients who will benefit from better pathogen diagnosis. Microbio is actively seeking partners worldwide, especially in population health and virology, who will integrate this new information into their proactive regional and corporate testing protocols. Additionally, Microbio is looking to work with pathology laboratory partners who can help deliver these highly specific results faster and to remote locations to improve health, regardless of a patient's location.

About InfectID®

InfectID is a diagnostic technology that detects and identifies bacterial, fungal, and viral targets. The test targets the pathogen's DNA 'fingerprint', found at a specific point in each pathogen's genetic code. By focusing on a small portion of the genome rather than the whole genome, the process is fast, inexpensive, highly sensitive and can be adapted to target different pathogens. The technology was refined and became the foundation of Microbio's core InfectID-Bloodstream Infection (which is currently in development) InfectID-Bloodstream Infection uses real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to identify sepsis-causing pathogen species directly from whole blood without the need for pre-culture. Because the technology is suitable for detecting viruses, the company pivoted in 2020 to develop SARS-CoV-2 detection tests.

Microbio Founders

Dr Flavia Huygens | Executive Director, Founder and Chief Scientific Officer

Flavia's 30-year teaching and research career has focused on molecular microbiology, with a particular focus on human pathogens. Flavia's expertise and exceptional ability to bring together emerging technology in molecular microbiology, genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics have culminated in the creation of InfectID.

Paul Carboon | Executive Director, Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Paul has 25 years of commercialisation experience. In the technology sector, Paul brings deep understanding of commercial and product management as well as product development. Paul is a leader in biotechnology innovation. He currently serves on the AusMedtech national advisory group and is a founding adviser with the BridgeTech Program. Paul is also an Honorary Fellow of Biotechnology at Melbourne University and has been a judge for the prestigious Eureka awards.

