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Asuragen Joins Industry Leaders in Completion of the FDA MAQC Project

Austin, TX. September 11, 2006 – Asuragen, Inc., an oncology molecular diagnostic company and molecular biology service provider, announces its participation as an Affymetrix test site for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Micro Array Quality Control (MAQC) Consortium, the results of which were published in this month's issue of Nature Biotechnology. The goal of the project is to develop guidelines and quality control parameters for microarray data analysis.

"Selection as a test site for the MAQC signifies the high regard by which Affymetrix viewed Asuragen's Service capabilities and proven results. High quality, consistent data is critical for future applications of microarray data in pharmacogenomics and personalized healthcare," said Rollie Carlson, President of Asuragen.

Participation in the MAQC consortium demonstrates Asuragen's commitment to quality processes and results through its service offerings. Data obtained through Asuragen's Gene Expression Profiling Service can be used to support Mandatory or Voluntary Genomic Data Submission guidelines, generate genomic data for Investigational New Drug (IND) or New Drug Applications (NDA), and explore biomarkers for clinical trials. Asuragen's service capabilities include processes and conditions under which laboratory activities may be planned, performed, monitored, and reported to comply with relevant Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) requirements of 21 CFR Part 58.

According to Scott Hunicke-Smith, VP and GM of Asuragen Services, "The publications highlight Asuragen's bioinformatic prowess in the novel adaptation of power analysis to assess inter-lab and inter-platform performance."

The quality and consistency demonstrated by Asuragen's Affymetrix array processing contributed to the outstanding overall results of the Affymetrix platform.

In addition to the Gene Expression Profiling Service, Asuragen also offers Custom RNA isolation, microRNA expression profiling, and bioinformatics services to support and accelerate your research.

About Asuragen, Inc.

Asuragen, Inc. is a newly formed company that resulted from the sale, in March, 2006, of the Research Products Division of Ambion, Inc. to Applied Biosystems Group (NYSE: ABI). Asuragen is comprised of two of Ambion's former divisions, Diagnostics and Services, along with the formation of a new Discovery group dedicated to developing new technologies that will become cutting edge clinical products.

Asuragen's current product portfolio consists of Signature® Genetic Testing and Oncology Testing products, as well as industry leading controls and standards engineered using its patented Armored RNA® technology. Asuragen has recently formed a partnership with Digene Corporation (NASDAQ: DIGE) to market and distribute its Signature cystic fibrosis screening products.

Asuragen is a fully integrated diagnostic reagent company focused on molecular oncology and early detection of cancer, with emphasis on microRNAs. Comprised of over 100 employees spun out of Ambion, Asuragen is empowered

with not only a high level of scientific expertise, but also assay development, business infrastructure and an established cGMP manufacturing facility that allow it to span the spectrum of discovery, production and commercialization. Asuragen is an Authorized Affymetrix Service Provider.

For more information, visit www.asuragen.com.

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