

## **BIOASTER, Université de Technologie de Compiègne, Hospices Civils de Lyon and bioMérieux formalize strategic collaboration to conduct Next Generation Sequencing technology evaluation in microbiology**

**Lyon, December 2, 2020** - BIOASTER Microbiology Technology Research Institute announced a strategic partnership in the field of sequencing-based diagnostics in microbiology with the Université de Technologie de Compiègne (UTC), bioMérieux, a world leader of *in vitro* diagnostics and the Hospices Civils de Lyon.

*“In the last decade, Next Generation Sequencing technologies have transformed the field of diagnostics in microbiology. BIOASTER is proud to partner with renowned academic and industrial actors to speed up transformation of this promising technology towards diagnostic tools useful for clinicians,”* said **Nathalie GARCON, CEO/CSO of IRT BIOASTER.**

The primary objective of this collaboration is to assess the ability of a third generation sequencing technology to become a new diagnostic device to detect bacteremia, enabling a rapid bacterial identification and genetic resistance prediction. Conducted in collaboration with UTC, a world-class academic actor in microfluidic systems, on blood samples and data provided by the HCL, the project will also enable the development and validation of an innovative micro-device to sort, purify and enrich bacteria from human blood cultures upstream of sequencing analysis.

Bloodstream infections, in particular sepsis, represent one of the main causes of death, with a mortality rate of up to 30% to 50% in intensive care units worldwide. To provide appropriate treatment for septic patients, the main challenge is not only the timely diagnosis of sepsis, but also the rapid identification of the sepsis-causing agent(s). This will allow for early-targeted antimicrobial therapy that significantly increases survival rate, prevents subsequent complications, and reduces drug-related side effects as well as medical expenses. Third generation sequencing technologies have evolved rapidly in recent years. They are a suitable tool for diagnosing infectious pathogens, in particular in terms of throughput, accuracy and speed with the potential to significantly expand the range of diagnostic assays that will soon be available to clinicians.

*“Improving the diagnosis of septic patients is at the heart of bioMérieux strategy. The BacTSeq project will allow us to further explore the potential of sequencing to cover this major unmet medical need”*

said **François LACOSTE, Executive Vice President, R&D, bioMérieux.**

**Marie-Christine HO-BA-THO, Research Director of UTC** added: *“We are very pleased with the long-standing collaboration with BIOASTER which has been involved in different research projects and teaching activities for years. The new partnership with bioMérieux will deepen this relationship and orient it towards concrete industrial challenges, with the goal of developing innovative solutions to improve patient health.”*

## ABOUT BIOMÉRIEUX

### *Pioneering Diagnostics*

A world leader in the field of in vitro diagnostics for over 55 years, bioMérieux is a France based company. It is present in 44 countries and serves more than 160 countries with the support of a large network of distributors. In 2019, revenues reached €2.7 billion, with over 90% of sales outside of France.

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (systems, reagents, software and services) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its products are mainly used for diagnosing infectious diseases. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

bioMérieux is listed on the Euronext Paris stock market.



Symbol: BIM – ISIN Code: FR0013280286

Reuters: BIOX.PA/Bloomberg: BIM.FP

[www.biomerieux.com](http://www.biomerieux.com)

## ABOUT UTC

Université de Technologie de Compiègne (UTC) was created in 1972 with two main objectives: to create the only university in France to deliver engineering degrees and to improve the adequateness between engineering training and industrial needs. UTC is a top-flight engineering institution, at the heart of a network of academic institutions specialized in engineering (Compiègne, Troyes, Belfort-Montbéliard, Shanghai-China). As the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest engineering school, it trains almost 5000 engineering, Master and PhD students who benefit from the technological innovation that takes place in the research labs. UTC is at the forefront of innovation and close to industrial realities. It hosts students and researchers from all over the world. In 2007 the "UTC PhD Charta" was accredited by the European Commission (EC). Since 2008 UTC is in the TOP 10 of the most innovating higher education institutions in the "Usine Nouvelle" magazine. Since December 2016, UTC is recognized by the EC, having been granted the 'HR Excellence in Research' award. This award shows the commitment and the compliance of UTC to the rules of Europe in terms of research environment, recruitment process (open, transparent, based on merit) and evolution of researchers' career.

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## ABOUT BIOASTER

Created in 2012, following the French initiative of Technology Research Institutes, BIOASTER is a non-for-profit foundation developing a unique technological and innovative model to support the latest challenges in microbiology. In particular, BIOASTER uses and develops high value technological innovations that accelerate development of medical solutions for populations and personalized medicine.

The aim of BIOASTER is to bring together academic, industry and its capacities and specific knowledge to develop and execute high impact collaborative projects requiring industry compatible innovative technologies.

Key figures:

- 4 fields of expertise: antimicrobials, diagnostics, microbiota, vaccines
- BSL2 & BSL3 laboratories in Lyon and Paris
- 100+ employees, including 80% of scientific experts, 17 nationalities
- 66+ collaborative projects, involving 45 private partners, 45 public partners.

[www.bioaster.org](http://www.bioaster.org)

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