

## **Dow Chemical and EPIcyte to jointly develop “plantibodies”**

In the United States, Dow Chemical Company and EPIcyte Pharmaceutical Inc. have signed a research and licensing agreement to develop and produce “plantibodies”, monoclonal antibodies from plants. Monoclonal antibodies are used as both therapeutic and diagnostic tools, but the cost of producing them using current technology is quite high.

Compared with traditional mammalian cell culture systems, the alternative method of using plants to produce antibodies promises to be cheaper by orders of magnitude. Production from plants lowers the capital costs, reduces cost of goods for more complex antibody types and is scalable to much greater production volumes than current systems of antibody production. This new approach to produce antibodies is expected to increase their utility and application for established and innovative uses in human and animal healthcare, as well as in certain industrial applications. *Contact: The Dow Chemical Company, 2030 Dow Centre, Midland, MI 48674, the United States. Tel: +1 (517) 6361 000; Fax: +1 (517) 6363 518. (Website: <http://www.bioresearchonline.com>)*