

DNA sequencing agreement

In the United States, Celera Genomics and Diversa Corp. have joined hands to sequence genomes and discover the genes of select, uncultured micro-organisms present in Diversa's extensive environmental libraries. This biodiversity sequencing collaboration would enable new product development by combining Celera's industrial-scale biology systems with Diversa's proprietary discovery technologies, including Diversa's patented normalization technologies, which can efficiently access previously unexplored genomes. The agreement expands Celera's focus to include microbial populations, which represent the largest, untapped genetic resource on earth. An estimated 99 per cent of microbes have never been grown or characterized and offer significant opportunities for new genetic discoveries.

Diversa's discovery technologies utilize ultra high-throughput screening systems, including proprietary gene-based and activity-based screening methods, which can accelerate the discovery of unique genes and gene pathways from microbial genomes at rates over 10,000 times faster than traditional methods. Diversa's ultra high-throughput screening is one of the most effective ways currently available to discover genes from millions of species of microbes, while sequencing provides the road map for a detailed genetic analysis of sets of species. The combination of these two complementary methods should create one of the most powerful discovery platforms in the industry. *Contact: Ms. Hillary Theakston, Diversa Corp., the United States. Tel: +1 (858) 5265 121; E-mail: htheakston@diversa.com; Or Ms. Heather Kowalski, Celera Genomics, the United States. Tel: +1 (240) 4533 343; E-mail: heather.kowalski@celera.com. (Website: <http://www.businesswire.com>)*