

Zymark and Seyonic Form Partnership for Nanoliter Technology

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For Immediate Release

Zymark Corporation and Seyonic SA are pleased to announce that they have formed a partnership to develop, manufacture and market nanoliter liquid handling instrumentation based on Zymark's Sciclone™ platforms and software with Seyonic's MEMS based microfluidic controllers. Under the agreement of the partnership, Zymark will make an investment in Seyonic manufacturing and in the definition of their software architecture to ensure that development in the technology is compatible with the Zymark software for liquid handling. Specific joint projects include the exclusive development of a 96-channel instrument with a minimum of 10 nanoliters per channel and independent channel control.

“We determined that with Seyonic we have the opportunity to take our existing liquid handling capabilities to the levels that will be needed to meet our customer's critical applications,” stated Zymark Corporation President and CEO Kevin Hrusovsky. “With this collaboration, our customers can be assured that they are receiving microtechnology capabilities at the levels that are not available from others. This capability added to the new Zymark software platforms will help further our mission to provide products to reduce the drug discovery pipeline and get new drugs to market quicker.”

Added Enrique Bernal, Zymark's Global Vice President for Research and Development, “Seyonic has the best technology for closed-loop control that we consider essential for reliable dispensing at these low volumes. The closed-loop control also provides for individual control of the valve handled by each channel and for the diagnostic feedback from each channel. The value of a partnership ensures that from our experience and contact in the market, products can be focused and developed in a timely manner to meet the demands of a changing research arena.”

Marc Boillat, President of Seyonic feels that the partnership with Zymark will be a transfer of information that will be positive for both companies, as well as the market. “We are extremely happy that we have been able to align with Zymark, a premier instrument manufacturer, who will help us bring our technology to the field. We will concentrate on developing our manufacturing infrastructure, while Zymark will use their marketing systems and service strengths to make our technology available to end users in reliable platforms that are well supported.”

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Located in the heights above Neuchâtel, Switzerland, Seyonic was incorporated in the spring of 1998 as a spin-off from the Institute of Microtechnology at the University of Neuchâtel. The company's mission is to provide instrument manufacturers with state-of-the-art microsystem technology to build products with superior performance. Seyonic microfluidic technology has been used throughout the world including in space where their microsystem technology was applied to the development of a miniature bioreactor that has been used on two successful flights of the Space Shuttle. (www.seyonic.com)

Zymark Corporation, headquartered in Hopkinton, MA, is a worldwide leader in laboratory automation for pharmaceutical and biotechnology applications. Zymark serves the worldwide pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, and hosts the annual ISLAR conference on laboratory automation. The company employs more than 365 people in the US, Canada, Europe and Japan, and has authorized sales and service organizations throughout the rest of the world. www.zymark.com

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