

Marketplace

Vaccine facility closes.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals (www.wyeth.com) will close its Marietta, PA, facility in December. This site focused primarily on the production of biologics and vaccines. The closure will result in a workforce reduction of 440 employees.



Life sciences unit created.

Agilent Technologies (www.agilent.com) announced the formation of the Integrated Biology Solutions (IBS) unit within its Life Sciences and Chemical Analysis business group. The unit consolidates the company's gene expression, proteomics, and reagents businesses.

Cellular initiative.

Beckman Coulter (www.beckmancoulter.com) has started up its Cell Lab initiative, which will bring together its cellular analysis technologies and products to address challenges in disease research and drug discovery. Within the company, Cell Lab joins ProteomeLab and GenomeLab to provide solutions for systems biology research.

Life sciences unit formed.

Parker Hannifan (www.parker.com), manufacturer of motion and control components for the analytical instrument market, has formed a life sciences business unit, Parker Life Sciences, to meet the demands of the life science OEM marketplace.

Deals

Biotech acquisition. Amgen (www.amgen.com) has agreed to acquire Tularik (www.tularik.com), a developer of medicines that act through regulation of gene expression. Tularik will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Amgen in a stock-for-stock transaction valued at \$1.3 billion. The deal will add Tularik's clinical development candidates to Amgen's pipeline. Upon closing of the transaction, David Goeddel, founder and CEO of Tularik, will become site head of Amgen San Francisco, overseeing its research projects and assisting in the strategic direction of Amgen's pipeline.

Pharmaceutical alliance. GlaxoSmithKline (GSK, www.gsk.com) and Theravance (www.theravance.com), a South San Francisco-based drug discovery company, will collaborate to develop and commercialize novel medicines in therapeutic areas including bacterial infection, urinary incontinence, and respiratory and gastrointestinal disorders. Under the agreement, Theravance will receive \$129 million from GSK, much of which relates to GSK's purchase of shares to increase its ownership stake in Theravance from 6 to 19% with an option for a further extension in 2007. GSK will receive an exclusive option to license potential new medicines from all programs through August 2007. Under the alliance, Theravance will retain its operational independence to continue to discover and develop new medicines.

People

New head of Bayer Health-

Care. Arthur Higgins, currently chair and CEO of Enzon Pharmaceuticals (www.enzon.com), will take over as chairman for Bayer HealthCare (www.bayerhealthcare.com) from Rolf Classon, who is retiring June 30 after 13 years of service. Higgins held posts with Sandoz and Fisons, and served as president of Abbott Laboratories' Pharmaceutical



Products Division before joining Enzon in 2001.

BioTrove executive appointed.

BioTrove (www.biotrove.com) recently announced the appointment of Patrick Carroll as chief business officer. Carroll worked for Applied Biosystems for the past 20 years, most recently holding the post of senior vice president of worldwide sales. BioTrove develops and com-

Product suppliers merge. Fisher Scientific (www.fishersci.com), a supplier of products and services to the chemical community, and Apogent Technologies (www.apogent.com), a manufacturer of laboratory and life science products, have agreed to merge in a \$3.7 billion transaction. Upon completion of the deal, Fisher shareholders will own 57% and Apogent shareholders 43% in the combined company to be called Fisher Scientific. Current Fisher Scientific officers will remain in their same positions with the new company. Frank H. Jellinek, Jr., president and CEO of Apogent, will serve as chairman emeritus of the new entity.



Drug discovery acquisition.

Molecular Devices (www.moleculardevices.com) will acquire Axon Instruments (www.axon.com) for \$70 million each in cash and common stock, including Axon's \$29 million in cash and marketable securities. Under the agreement, each Axon share will be converted into approximately \$0.14 in cash and 0.007 of a Molecular Devices share. The transaction will expand Molecular Devices' product portfolio in neurosciences and genomics and combine similar product lines in high-throughput imaging and electrophysiology. After the transaction closes, Alan Finkel, CEO of Axon, is expected to become vice president and chief technology officer of Molecular Devices, reporting to Joseph Keegan, president and CEO.

mercializes nanofluidic systems for life sciences.

Oxxon names executive VP.

Oxxon Therapeutics (www.oxti.com) has appointed Frank Malinoski as executive vice president for development and chief medical officer. Oxxon develops immunotherapeutics for cancer and chronic infectious diseases. Malinoski brings 18 years of vaccine development experience to Oxxon. He joins Oxxon from Wyeth Vaccines. ■