

## **A joint project between PicoSeq, Hybrigenics, École Normale Supérieure and CNRS is selected for the second phase of the French Worldwide Innovation Challenge**

**The two-year collaborative project will be granted EUR 1.2 million to develop a novel technology for epigenetic analysis in the field of personalized medicine**

**Paris, 28 April 2015** – PicoSeq, a Paris-based company developing technologies for the genetic and epigenetic analysis of DNA and RNA, Hybrigenics (ALHYG), a bio-pharmaceutical company listed on the Alternext market of Euronext Paris, with an affiliate, Hybrigenics Services, specialised in proteomic and genomic scientific services, the Croquette Statistical Physics Laboratory at École Normale Supérieure and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), today announce the selection of their joint project for the second phase of the French Worldwide Innovation Challenge.

This joint project is focused on the development of a breakthrough technology for epigenetic analysis of DNA and has been selected within the category of 'personalised medicine', one of the seven French strategic innovation goals for 2030 ([www.entreprises.gouv.fr/innovation-2030](http://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/innovation-2030)). The project, named EPIGENETIX2, will receive EUR 1.2 million from BPIFrance to support its completion within the next two years. In 2016, the consortium may compete for additional funding in the third and final phase of the French Worldwide Innovation Challenge, to help finance the industrialization of the technology. PicoSeq will lead the collaboration and would commercialize the technology.

The core of the project is centred on the development of PicoSeq's SIMDEQ™ (Single-Molecule Magnetic Detection and Quantification) technology to enable accurate, rapid, and cost-effective detection of epigenetic signals on DNA. Hybrigenics Services' key contribution to the project will be to develop custom single-chain-fragment antibodies using its new HybriBody™ technology. Detection of epigenetic signals with SIMDEQ™ requires such specialized, highly specific binding molecules.

*"This award recognises the truly innovative nature of our technology and will allow us to accelerate its development for future use in personalised medicine. We look forward to entering into collaboration with Hybrigenics Services whose technology will play a key role in this exciting and ground-breaking project,"* said PicoSeq's CEO, Gordon Hamilton.

*"This collaborative project is a perfect opportunity to test and develop our new HybriBody™ technology producing small "antibody-like" molecules for ultra-sensitive screening purposes. We are delighted that PicoSeq found it highly complementary to their cutting-edge SIMDEQ™ technology. The synergistic combination of our two technologies will make the joint project even more competitive for the final selection phase of the French Worldwide Innovation Challenge,"* said Jean-Christophe Rain, Hybrigenics Services' COO.

Epigenetics is a fast-evolving science. Epigenetic signals on DNA play an important role in regulating the activity of the genes. They act as the "punctuation marks" accompanying the underlying DNA "text". Accurate detection of the type and location of these signals can be used to better understand how many biological processes are genetically regulated. Similarly, epigenetics can help to identify how certain diseases could be triggered in the absence of any defects in the underlying genetic sequence, or explain some of the variability in the response to a medication across a patient population. Epigenetic information may therefore become increasingly integrated into the next generation of personalised medical diagnostic/prognostic tests and be used to influence treatment choice.

# HYBRIGENICS

## Press Release

### About PicoSeq

PicoSeq is a French SME, based in Paris, and a spin-out from CNRS. The company is developing a technology for genetic and epigenetic analysis of DNA and RNA. The technology has the potential to greatly simplify the generation of high-quality information from genetic material, allowing scientists to better understand complex biological systems, and delivering significant benefits in areas ranging from fundamental research through to clinical diagnostics. More information is available at [www.picoseq.com](http://www.picoseq.com).

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### About Hybrigenics

Hybrigenics ([www.hybrigenics.com](http://www.hybrigenics.com)) is a bio-pharmaceutical group listed (ALHYG) on the Alternext market of Euronext Paris, focusing its internal R&D programs on innovative targets and therapies for the treatment of proliferative diseases and providing cutting-edge proteomic and genomic scientific services.

Hybrigenics' current development program is based on inecalcitol, a vitamin D receptor agonist active by oral administration. Oral inecalcitol has shown excellent tolerance and strong presumption of efficacy for the first-line treatment of metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer in combination with Taxotere®, which is the current gold-standard chemotherapeutic treatment for this indication. Inecalcitol has also been tested in chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients, an indication for which inecalcitol has received orphan drug status in Europe and the United States. A clinical Phase II study of inecalcitol is currently ongoing in chronic myeloid leukemia patients.

Hybrigenics has a research collaboration with Servier on deubiquitinating enzymes (DUBs) and their inhibitors in oncology, neurology, psychiatry, rheumatology, ophthalmology, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. A first milestone has been achieved in a drug discovery program targeting one DUB in oncology.

Hybrigenics Services ([www.hybrigenics-services.com](http://www.hybrigenics-services.com)) is the market leader in Yeast Two-Hybrid (Y2H) and related services to identify, validate and inhibit protein interactions for researchers in all areas of life sciences, using its ISO 9001-certified high-throughput Y2H screening platform.

Helixio ([www.helixio.com](http://www.helixio.com)), Hybrigenics' genomic branch, provides state-of-the-art services specialized in DNA chips, DNA or RNA target enrichment and next generation sequencing with an Illumina NextSeq500. Hybrigenics Corp., based in Cambridge, Mass., is the American subsidiary of Hybrigenics.

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**HYBRIGENICS is listed on the Alternext market of Euronext Paris**

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