

Press Release

BRAIN AG and Degussa's Service Center Biocatalysis cooperate in the screening and application of industrial enzymes for the production of specialty chemicals

Frankfurt/Zwingenberg. Biotechnology company BRAIN AG and the Service Center Biocatalysis of Degussa AG, Duesseldorf have agreed to cooperate in the field of screening and application of industrial enzymes for the production of specialty chemicals. This partnership provides customers with a comprehensive service offer ranging from screening for novel enzymes to establishing industrial biotransformation on an industrial scale.

BRAIN AG has developed the EvoSolution® technology platform building on its extensive expertise in molecular biology to harness cultivable and non-cultivable microorganisms as biological resources. Metagenomes containing genes from a wide variety of organisms are isolated, stored in bioarchives and specifically screened to identify novel enzymes. One of the key competencies of the Service Center Biocatalysis is to develop novel enzymes for commercially relevant applications. Degussa's Service Center Biocatalysis has know-how and dedicated infrastructure in the areas of chemical synthesis, biocatalyst production and development of industrial biotransformations, and offers this also to external customers since the beginning of 2004.

This cooperation between BRAIN and Degussa combines competencies in biology, chemistry and process development to create a key success factor for white biotechnology. Customers capitalise from this through accelerated implementation of more efficient novel biocatalytic solutions.

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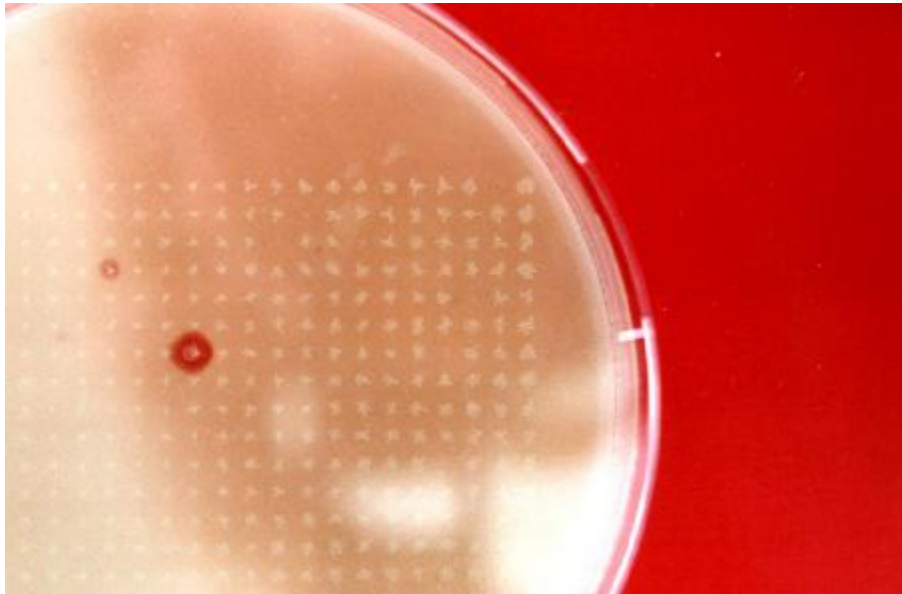
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About BRAIN AG

BRAIN Biotechnology Research and Information Network AG is a research and development company focusing on enzymes, bioactives and technical proteins. Its innovative EvoSolution® technology platform provides access to the vast biochemical and catalytic diversity of microorganisms and plants via cutting edge molecular genetics tools. Located in Zwingenberg, within the Rhine-Main-Neckar industrial and academic triangle, BRAIN has built up large proprietary BioArchives with over 140 million genes of unique and often non-cultivable microorganisms. Based on these resources BRAIN identifies novel enzymes for application in biocatalysis and biotransformation in the chemical, life science and food/feed industries as well as new bioactive substances and lead candidates for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics market. New candidate entities are developed to a point ready for large-scale industrial production. Founded in 1993, the company currently employs a staff of 40.



Novel enzymes and comprehensive enzyme libraries from non-cultivated microorganisms are identified by BRAIN.

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About Degussa AG

Degussa is a multinational corporation consistently aligned to highly profitable specialty chemistry. In fiscal 2003, its 47,000 employees generated sales of € 11.4 billion and operating profits (EBIT) of € 878 million, making it Germany's third-largest chemical company and the global market leader in specialty chemicals. Innovative products and system solutions enable Degussa to play a valuable and indispensable role in the success of its customers, as summed up by our claim "creating essentials".



Based on novel biocatalysts Degussa AG developed industrial biotransformation processes.

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Pictures and text

Text and pictures are available under www.brain-biotech.de ("News") and www.sc-biocatalysis.de ("News").