

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Babraham Research Campus**

**13 May 2009**  
**Cambridge, UK**

**Babraham-based Innova Biosciences strikes an alliance with Cancer Research Technology**

A new alliance has been struck between Babraham-based Innova Biosciences and Cancer Research Technology (CRT), the commercialisation arm of Cancer Research UK. This licensing deal will provide invaluable research tools to advance understanding of the complex biochemical pathways underpinning cancer development and therefore more effectively design therapies.

Based at Babraham's Bioincubator since 2002, Innova's core business is 'bioconjugation' – the joining of two molecules to form a hybrid 'conjugate', a process carried out in thousands of research laboratories worldwide. Conjugates are used in diagnostic tests in hospital and research labs around the world and in consumer items such as pregnancy test kits.

Through this commercialisation deal, Innova Biosciences will create a novel portfolio of conjugate antibodies against novel oncology targets provided by CRT for use by the scientific community.

Innova Biosciences has developed a sophisticated, yet simple and rapid, one-step conjugation method for joining biomolecules (Lightning-Link™), which creates high quality stable conjugates and significantly simplifies the production of conjugates required for research and immunodiagnostic applications. The life science IP commercialisation company Aitua Ltd, also based at the Babraham Research Campus, invested in Innova to develop its product pipeline in 2007.

Commenting on the deal Dr Nick Gee, CEO of Innova Biosciences said, "Research arising from Cancer Research UK sponsored labs is pioneering, and the organisation is recognised as a worldwide leader in the oncology field. CRT was an obvious partner for Innova Biosciences which creates a unique, powerful synergistic effect. It is our hope that these novel research tools will aid scientists to unravel the mysteries of cancer thus leading to the development of diagnostic tests and anti cancer therapeutics."

Dr Phil L'Huillier, CRT's director of business management added, "CRT has a strong track record in commercialising research tools and reagents. Working with Innova Biosciences will enable us to combine our specialist antibodies with their easy-to-use conjugation technology. We envisage this portfolio of antibody conjugates will have great importance in the field of cancer research."

**Contact details:**

Dr Claire Cockcroft,  
Deputy, Corporate Affairs  
Babraham Institute  
Email: [claire.cockcroft@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:claire.cockcroft@bbsrc.ac.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)1223 496260  
Fax: +44 (0)1223 496002

The Babraham Institute  
Babraham Research Campus  
Cambridge CB22 3AT  
United Kingdom

Dr Brian Carpenter, MBA  
Innova Biosciences - Sales and Marketing Manager  
Innova Biosciences Ltd, Babraham, Cambridge, CB22 3AT, UK

Email: [brian.carpenter@innovabioscience.com](mailto:brian.carpenter@innovabioscience.com)  
Telephone: 01223 496 171  
Mobile: 07876 344 711

## Notes for Editors

**Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd** is the wholly-owned subsidiary and trading arm of the Babraham Institute. Coalescing scientific, technological and commercial excellence, BBT delivers the Knowledge Transfer remit of the Institute through the wider landscape of the Babraham Research Campus, catalysing opportunities for enterprise across the academic and commercial divide. BBT brings together all the elements to support innovation and enable the successful exploitation of research in the biomedical sector based on technologies emanating from the Babraham Institute and bioventures relocating to the Babraham Research Campus. Website: [www.babraham.com](http://www.babraham.com)

**The Babraham Research Campus** is the UK's leading knowledge-driven Biomedical Park where world-class research, business know-how and entrepreneurial excellence come together to stimulate effective knowledge transfer and bridge the academic and commercial divide. The campus provides a unique and highly successful environment that actively fosters innovation and plays a pivotal role for biomedical start-up companies in the Cambridge region and with delivering innovation at the frontiers of biomedical research. BBT has taken a prominent role regionally, initiating and leading partnerships to promote knowledge and skills flow and has established a reputation for successfully translating innovative science into viable business opportunities through partnerships for wealth creation. This is stimulating inward investment to the campus and contributing to regional development.

**The Babraham Institute**, an independent charitable organisation located six miles south-east of Cambridge, is an institute of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. Carrying out world-leading innovative research and advanced training with relevance to the biomedical, biotechnological, pharmaceutical and healthcare communities, the institute underpins government's national responsibilities for healthcare research and training. Research focuses on the mechanisms of cell signalling and gene regulation, which underlie normal cellular processes and functions, and on how their failure or abnormality may lead to disease. The latest technologies are being used to study the basis of conditions such as neurodegenerative disorders, foetal abnormality, cancer and diseases of the immune and cardiovascular systems. The commercialisation of the Institute's research is managed by its trading subsidiary, Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd. Website: [www.babraham.ac.uk](http://www.babraham.ac.uk)

**Innova Biosciences Ltd** is a growing, dynamic business, based in Cambridge, UK. At the core of Innova's business is the Lightning-Link™, an innovative technology that simplifies production of bioconjugates for use in R&D applications, drug discovery and diagnostics. The expanding Lightning-Link™ portfolio currently consists of 43 products and is sold to research laboratories in over 30 countries around the world. [www.innovabiosciences.com](http://www.innovabiosciences.com)

**Cancer Research Technology Limited (CRT)** is a specialist development and commercialisation company, which aims to develop new discoveries in cancer research for the benefit of cancer patients. CRT works closely with leading international cancer scientists and their institutes to protect intellectual property arising from their research and to establish links with commercial partners. CRT facilitates the discovery, development and marketing of new cancer therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics and enabling technologies. CRT is wholly owned by Cancer Research UK, the largest independent funder of cancer research in the world. Further information about CRT can be found at [www.CancerTechnology.com](http://www.CancerTechnology.com)

## Cancer Research UK

- Together with its partners and supporters, Cancer Research UK's vision is to beat cancer.
- Cancer Research UK carries out world-class research to improve understanding of the disease and find out how to prevent, diagnose and treat different kinds of cancer.
- Cancer Research UK ensures that its findings are used to improve the lives of all cancer patients.
- Cancer Research UK helps people to understand cancer, the progress that is being made and the choices each person can make.
- Cancer Research UK works in partnership with others to achieve the greatest impact in the global fight against cancer.
- For further information about Cancer Research UK's work or to find out how to support the charity, please call 020 712 6699 or visit [www.cancerresearchuk.org.uk](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org.uk)