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For Immediate Release

MetaMorphix Buys Celera's Animal Genomics and Genotyping Business

Savage, MD and Rockville, MD, March 4, 2002 – Privately held MetaMorphix, Inc. and Celera Genomics (NYSE:CRA), an Applera Corporation business, today announced the closing of the sale of Celera's AgGen animal genomics and genotyping business to MetaMorphix. In addition, MetaMorphix has received a subscription to the Celera Discovery System™. MetaMorphix intends to commercialize new products derived from Celera's livestock genomic databases. In consideration, Celera has acquired a minority interest in MetaMorphix, and is entitled to share future revenue generated from products developed by MetaMorphix based on Celera's livestock databases. Other details of the agreements were not disclosed.

“The creation of livestock genomic databases represents a quantum leap in the development of new products for the animal health and livestock production industries. It is as historic to these industries as similar developments in the human health industry,” said Ed Quattlebaum, Ph.D., MetaMorphix Inc.'s Chairman, CEO and President.

“This acquisition will significantly enhance MetaMorphix's capabilities in livestock genomics research,” continues Dr. Quattlebaum. “We are excited to have a team of Celera employees joining our company and strongly believe that this revolutionary technology will have a dramatic impact on modern-day agronomics. This deal will significantly aid us in becoming a leading player in animal-based agricultural genomics.”

“We believe this transaction with MetaMorphix is an ideal way to leverage value from the livestock genomics databases that Celera has generated, while allowing us to continue to focus our internal resources on activities related to our online and human therapeutics businesses,” said Tony L. White, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Applera Corporation and acting President, Celera Genomics.

ABOUT APPLERA CORPORATION AND CELERA GENOMICS

Applera Corporation comprises two operating groups. The Celera Genomics Group, headquartered in Rockville, MD, is engaged principally in integrating advanced technologies to create therapeutic discovery and development capabilities for internal use and for its customers and collaborators. Celera's businesses are its online information business and its therapeutics discovery business. The online information business is a leading provider of information based on the human genome and other biological and medical information. Through the therapeutic discovery business, Celera intends to leverage its genomic and proteomic capabilities to identify drug targets and diagnostic marker candidates, and to discover novel therapeutic candidates. The Applied Biosystems Group (NYSE:ABI) develops and markets instrument-based systems, reagents, software, and contract services to the life science industry and research community. Applied Biosystems is headquartered in Foster City, CA, and reported sales of \$1.6 billion during fiscal 2001. Celera Diagnostics, a joint venture between Applied Biosystems and Celera Genomics, is focused on discovery, development, and commercialization of novel diagnostics tests. Information about Applera Corporation, including reports and other information filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, is available on the World Wide Web at www.applera.com, or by telephoning 800.762.6923.

ABOUT METAMORPHIX, INC.

Founded in 1994 and based in Savage, Maryland, MetaMorphix, Inc., a privately held life sciences company, is dedicated to discovering and commercializing multiple technology platforms to naturally improve the food supply and human health.

Drawing on three distinct technology platforms – growth differentiation factors (GDFs), genomics/proteomics and immunopharmaceuticals – MetaMorphix has more than a dozen products in various stages of development. These products are intended to vastly improve livestock breeding and production and to create more nutritious, consistent-quality meat. Further, the company is leveraging a licensing agreement, using its GDF technology platform, to research potential applications to serious human health conditions.

Certain statements in this press release are forward-looking. These may be identified by the use of forward-looking words or phrases such as "believe," "expect," "intend," "anticipate," "should," "planned," "estimated," and "potential," among others. These forward-looking statements are based on Applera Corporation's and MetaMorphix Inc.'s current expectations. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "safe harbor" for such forward-looking statements. In order to comply with the terms of the safe harbor, Applera Corporation and MetaMorphix Inc. note that a variety of factors could cause actual results and experience to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties that may affect the operations, performance, development, and results of Applera Corporation's and MetaMorphix Inc.'s business include but are not limited to; (1) unproven use of scientific information to develop or commercialize products; (2) other factors that might be described from time to time in MetaMorphix Inc.'s business plan and regulatory filings; (3) and other factors that might be described from time to time in Applera Corporation's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.