



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Media:
Mary Ellen DeFrancesco
MetaMorphix, Inc.
443.803.6928

Media:
Penny Karas
Dittus Communications
202.257.1111

Investors:
Michael Thomas
MetaMorphix, Inc.
301.617.9080 x233

Cattle Genome Sequenced

MetaMorphix Holds Rights

To Cattle Equivalent of Human Genome Discovery

SAVAGE, MD – June 11, 2002 – MetaMorphix, Inc., a privately held life sciences company, today announced that 1x coverage of the sequenced cattle genome has been completed, along with a dense map of 600,000 putative SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms). Like the sequencing of the human genome before it, the cattle genome will allow the development of diagnostic and therapeutic technologies. These technologies will be used in the industries associated with cattle breeding, production and health. The resulting products will have the significant potential to reduce production costs, improve animal health and disease control, enhance meat quality and improve diet and nutrition value for humans.

“The sequencing of the cattle genome and the development of this dense SNP map represents a quantum leap forward in the cattle health and production industries,” said Terry Stokes, CEO of the National Cattleman’s Beef Association. “This is a historic milestone that may ultimately lead not only to greater efficiency on the production side, but to help us continue to meet the ever increasing demands of our consumer in meat quality and nutrition.”

Celera Genomics (NYSE: CRA), which in 2000 announced that it sequenced the human genome, sequenced the cattle genome with 1x coverage and developed the SNP map. In March 2002, MetaMorphix acquired Celera’s animal genomics and genotyping business, along with rights to the cattle genome. Celera has a minority interest in MetaMorphix and will share in future revenue generated from products developed by MetaMorphix based on the cattle genome and SNP map.

“The sequencing of the cattle genome and its maps represent a new high point in animal genomics,” said Ed Quattlebaum, PhD, president, CEO and chairman of MetaMorphix. “However, we are setting the bar even higher – we are now actively developing commercial

applications and technologies based on the genome and its map to benefit cattle production and health, and, ultimately, human nutrition.”

The first of those commercial applications, an exclusive joint development and marketing effort with Cargill, Incorporated, to develop a genetic selection tool for beef consistency, palatability and tenderness, was also announced today.

Mark Adams, PhD, vice president of Genome Programs of Celera Genomics said, “Since investing in MetaMorphix and their new animal genomics thrust, we are delighted that the company has so quickly secured its first foundation partner and look forward to seeing its first products resulting from the sequencing of the cattle genome.”

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 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, MetaMorphix Inc. notes 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 MetaMorphix Inc.’s business include but are not limited to; (1) unproven use of genomics information to develop or commercialize products; and (2) other factors that might be described from time to time in MetaMorphix’s business plan and regulatory filings.