



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Dr. Elmar Maier, VP Business Development,

GPC Aktiengesellschaft

Tel. +49 89 899 677 0

Fax +49 89 899 677 10

Email: [info@gpc-ag.com](mailto:info@gpc-ag.com)

<http://www.gpc-ag.com> Contact:

**Gene Alliance and GPC AG announce collaboration focused on  
agrobiotechnology and pharmacogenomics**

Hilden, Germany, March 29, 1999: Gene Alliance, a consortium of five high-profile biotechnology companies (AGOWA, Biomax Informatics, GATC, MediGenomix and QIAGEN), and GPC AG - Genome Pharmaceuticals Corporation, a genomics-based drug discovery company, today announced an agreement to collaborate in the fields of agrobiotechnology and pharmacogenomics in order to offer a comprehensive portfolio of sophisticated technologies to its customers in these target areas.

In this collaboration, GPC and Gene Alliance will combine their core competences to offer a unique and integrated service platform to partners in the agrobiotechnology and pharmacogenomics fields as well as to GPC's internal projects. For all joint projects, Gene Alliance will contribute its proven high-throughput and high-quality sequencing capabilities and bioinformatics platform, while GPC will contribute its high-performance functional genomics capabilities to the collaboration.

Prof. Dr. Bernd Seizinger, GPC's Chief Executive Officer said: "The GPC - Gene Alliance collaboration provides customers with a state of the art integrated genomics platform which stretches from gene discovery to functional analysis, bioinformatics, and early phase drug discovery. Our collaboration will initially focus on two of the most promising growth areas for genomics: Agriculture (AgBio) and clinical development (Pharmacogenomics). Both represent multi-billion dollar markets which are about to be revolutionized by genomics but are still largely untapped, thereby offering unique partnering and growth opportunities for the new collaboration."

Dr. Andreas Düsterhöft of Gene Alliance added: "We are enthusiastic about this collaboration with GPC. This will further enhance Gene Alliance's range of genomics services that are readily available to customers from one source, providing integrated high-end solutions. Customers can now benefit from this "one-stop-shop" for all their large-scale genome analysis projects. This collaboration is the only one on the market able to offer such a complete service portfolio for gaining full genomic knowledge."

GPC has uniquely integrated platforms of automated and proprietary high-throughput functional genomics technologies (OliCode™, ExpressCode™, PathCode™, BioChipExplorer™) to streamline the process of target identification and validation. In its internal research efforts, GPC's biology teams are initially focusing on infectious diseases and diseases of the immune system. The Company is also applying its technology platforms in its existing research alliance with the Altana subsidiary Byk Gulden, in the fields of *Helicobacter pylori* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae*. The Company's goal is to assist major pharmaceutical companies in the process of drug discovery and development as well as to expand its technology base and build an integrated drug discovery company

Gene Alliance is a leading European genomics services provider, created to address large-scale genome analysis projects. It has one of the highest commercially available sequencing capacities in Europe and offers a complete portfolio of integrated genomic services, such as library construction, mapping, megabase sequencing, annotation and visualization, using the GeneReliance™, software platform. Recent projects include a research collaboration with Byk Gulden, in which Gene Alliance will complete genome sequencing and analysis of the bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae* in just seven months. The founding members of the Gene Alliance partnership are AGOWA (Berlin), Biomax Informatics (Munich), GATC (Konstanz), MediGenomix (Munich, a subsidiary of Medigene AG – Frankfurt: MDG) and QIAGEN GmbH (Hilden, a wholly owned subsidiary of QIAGEN N.V. (Nasdaq: QGENF, Frankfurt: QIA).

*Certain of the statements contained in this news release may be considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. To the extent that any of the statements contained herein relating to the services, products and markets and operating results of the Gene Alliance or any of its members are forward-looking, such statements are based on current expectations that involve a number of uncertainties and risks. Such uncertainties and risks include, but are not limited to, those associated with the continued ability of the respective members of the Gene Alliance to work together to successfully operate and manage the alliance and market its and their respective products and services and the continued commercial development of the DNA sequencing and genomics markets. For further information concerning these uncertainties and risks, refer to the discussion in reports that the Gene Alliance and its members have published including reports that QIAGEN N.V. has filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).*