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SUN MICROSYSTEMS GMBH AND BIOMAX INFORMATICS AG ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION

Sun™ Solaris™ is the optimal platform for the BioRS™ Integration and Retrieval System

MARTINSRIED and KIRCHHEIM-HEIMSTETTEN, Germany -- April 10, 2001 - Biomax Informatics AG and Sun Microsystems GmbH announce their collaboration to deliver the Sun™ Solaris™ system as a premier platform for the Biomax™ BioRS™ Integration and Retrieval System.

The BioRS system is a high-speed, sophisticated search and retrieval system for databases containing biological information such as DNA sequences. The speed and flexibility of the BioRS system greatly facilitates gene discovery projects, including genomics, proteomics and drug targeting and delivery projects. The system enables researchers to quickly and efficiently retrieve all known biological data on a given topic, independent of the size of the database or the complexity of the query. The BioRS system uses convenient web interfaces and standardizes data formats from different databases using Extensible Markup Language. Furthermore, it works efficiently with both flat-file and relational databases and makes it easy for any organization to integrate their own proprietary databases.

Biomax, a leading provider of customized and comprehensive bioinformatics solutions, has identified Solaris as a premier platform for database development and deployment. By leveraging the robust, scalable and highly reliable Solaris Operating Environment, Sun and Biomax will enable life science researchers to deploy BioRS solutions across networked environments and through application service providers (ASPs). The collaboration aims to expand markets for the BioRS system and demonstrates Sun's strengthened commitment to the discovery process. By porting to Solaris and using the Sun platform for development, Biomax will be able to offer its customers enterprise-wide deployment of its solutions through a client–server model.

"Sun is excited to be working with Biomax as part of our continuing effort to deliver powerful solutions to the discovery pipeline," said Hans Gerke, Market Development Manager, Sun Microsystems. "By aligning our best-of-breed solutions, Sun and Biomax are offering life scientists and bioinformatics professionals unprecedented speed and access to the tools they need to take ideas from the laboratory into the world beyond."

"This agreement substantially expands the array of solutions from both Biomax and Sun for the fields of biopharmaceutical discovery, particularly functional genomics," said Dr. Klaus Heumann, CEO of Biomax. "Sun has a demonstrated a strong track record of responding to the needs of the bioinformatics industry, and we are enthusiastic about joining forces to delivery the most advanced biological database search and integration tools available. Together, the Solaris platforms and the BioRS software will have an enormous impact in both accelerating and enhancing gene-based therapies, and, thus, helping to bring products to the market sooner for genetically inherited disorders, many cancers and infectious diseases.

About Sun Microsystems

Since its inception in 1982, a singular vision – The Network Is The Computer™ – has propelled Sun Microsystems to its position as a leading provider of industrial-strength hardware, software and services that power the Internet and allow companies worldwide to take their businesses to the nth. With \$19.2 billion in annual revenues, Sun can be found in more than 170 countries and on the World Wide Web at http://sun.com.

About Biomax

Biomax Informatics AG (Martinsried, Germany), a leader in the development of customized bioinformatics solutions, was founded in 1997 as a spin-off of the GSF-MIPS academic research group of the German Research Center for Environment and Health (Neuherberg) and the Munich Information Center for Protein Sequences (Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Martinsried). Founded by Dr. D. Frishman, Dr. K. Heumann and Prof. Dr. H. W. Mewes, Biomax developed the well-known Pedant-Pro™ Sequence Analysis Suite, the BioRS Integration and Retrieval System, and other bioinformatics tools used in metabolic pathway, proteomics, and gene expression analyses. Additional information about Biomax can be found at the company's site on the World Wide Web at www.biomax.de.

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