

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Lucigen Corporation and Research Corporation Technologies Announce Partnership and Launch of the Endotoxin free CleanColi™ Expression System.**

**May 1, 2013** – Lucigen Corporation and Research Corporation Technologies (RCT) today announced a partnership to commercialize and distribute the CleanColi™ Expression System, the first *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)-based recombinant system that lacks unwanted endotoxin. Lucigen will produce and sell kits containing CleanColi™ competent cells and provide contract research services for the CleanColi™ Expression System. Lucigen simultaneously announces the release of a CleanColi™ competent cell line enabling the production of proteins virtually free of endotoxin contamination, thereby minimizing purification and allowing faster and more accurate screening of biological targets for drug discovery research. Under the partnership, RCT will be responsible for the CleanColi™ commercial licensing programs.

Drug discovery researchers are increasingly turning to biologics as the source for new therapeutics, utilizing the incredible diversity of proteins in order to find new treatments for disease. To synthesize and manipulate these proteins, researchers normally insert genes coding for the desired protein into mammalian, yeast, or bacterial cells. The common bacteria *E. coli* is a widely used system for expression of recombinant proteins, but this method has the disadvantage that, without time-consuming and expensive cleanup, it produces contaminating endotoxin that kills human cells. Failure to remove endotoxin from the final product can result in false or misleading results, potentially causing a researcher to improperly reject a promising drug candidate.

Lucigen and RCT have developed the CleanColi™ competent cell strain for protein expression. This new strain has a genetically modified lipopolysaccharide (LPS) that does not cause an endotoxic response in human cells. By producing proteins without contaminating endotoxin, researchers can increase productivity by reducing the time, cost, and loss of product associated with endotoxin removal. More important, cell-based assays can be performed without concern that LPS (endotoxin) contamination could be masking promising results. Researchers can accelerate drug discovery research and ensure the most accurate results possible. Additional cell lines for plasmid production and phage display are also planned for release, creating a complete system for scientists to study a large variety of biologic compounds for therapeutic applications.

“*E. coli* is commonly used for research scale protein expression but its ease of use has been limited by unwanted endotoxin contamination. These days are hopefully over. RCT and their collaborators have developed technology allowing for the creation of the first viable *E. coli* strains lacking endotoxin in the membrane. The CleanColi™ cell lines will accelerate how researchers screen novel compounds for drug discovery. By eliminating the source of endotoxin, scientists can increase the number of compounds screened and more accurately pinpoint candidates for further testing. We are proud to work with RCT to introduce this truly novel system to the world,” states David Mead, Ph.D., Lucigen founder and CEO.

“Lucigen is the ideal partner to launch the CleanColi™ Expression System. They have established themselves as the clear market leader for high efficiency competent cells. We are looking forward to working with them and future licensees of the CleanColi™ Expression System to bring this valuable tool to commercial research and recombinant protein production,” said Chad Souvignier, Ph.D., Managing Director at RCT.

**About Lucigen Corporation**

Located in Middleton, Wis., Lucigen delivers advanced molecular biology products and services to life scientists by inventing solutions to the most difficult problems in DNA cloning, amplification, protein expression, and next generation sequencing. With a focus on simplifying genomic research, Lucigen offers a wide selection of cloning kits, competent cells, and enzymes that enable scientists to quickly and easily complete even the most challenging molecular biology experiments. For more information about the firm and products, call 888-575-9695, email [Lucigen@lucigen.com](mailto:Lucigen@lucigen.com), or visit our website at [www.lucigen.com](http://www.lucigen.com).



About Research Corporation Technologies, Inc.

RCT is a Tucson, Ariz.-based technology investment and management company that provides early-stage funding and development for promising biomedical companies and technologies. RCT focuses on technology investments with origins from universities and research institutions worldwide. RCT's technology portfolio includes platforms that support the discovery, development and manufacturing of therapeutics. Current platform technologies include *Pichia* and *E.coli* protein expression systems and novel protein binding scaffolds. To learn more about RCT and our business, see [www.rctech.com](http://www.rctech.com). CleanColi™ Competent Cells are subject to U.S. Patent 8,303,964 and other U.S. and foreign pending patents. For additional information about the CleanColi™ Expression System and licensing the technology, please visit [www.cleancoli.com](http://www.cleancoli.com)

For further information, please contact:

David Mead  
Lucigen Corporation  
2905 Parmenter Street  
Middleton, WI 53562  
Phone: 608-831-9011  
FAX: 608-831-9012  
Email: [dmead@lucigen.com](mailto:dmead@lucigen.com)  
Web: [www.lucigen.com](http://www.lucigen.com)

Chad Souvignier  
Research Corporation Technologies  
5210 E. Williams Circle #240  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
Phone: 520-748-4462  
Fax: 520-748-0025  
Email: [csouvignier@rctech.com](mailto:csouvignier@rctech.com)  
Web: [www.cleancoli.com](http://www.cleancoli.com)

