

Press release

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Biotage's acquisition of the American company Argonaut Technologies: Final decision at a special shareholders' meeting on June 1, 2005

On March 18, 2005 Biotage announced its intention to acquire the reagents and process instruments business of the American company Argonaut Technologies Inc. The purchase price is 145 MSEK (21.2 MUSD). This will give Biotage additional sales of approx. 125 MSEK.

Argonaut Technologies' board of directors has accepted Biotage's bid to acquire Argonaut's business. The acquisition must receive final approval by a special meeting of the shareholders in Argonaut, however. This will take place on June 1, 2005. In the summons to the special meeting the board of directors of Argonaut recommends that Argonaut's shareholders accept Biotage's bid.

Through the acquisition Biotage's offering in medicinal chemistry will be strengthened and the company will get a complete product portfolio in microwave synthesis, purification systems and reagents, enabling faster and more efficient development of new drug candidates. If the acquisition is realized, Biotage has obtained short-term bank financing for this and the purchase price will be paid in cash. The company is evaluating different financing options and will soon announce a long-term financing solution.

About Biotage

Biotage is a global company active in life science research with strong technologies, a broad range of operations and a long-term view of the market. The company offers solutions, knowledge and experience in the areas of genetic analysis and medicinal chemistry. Customers include the worlds top 30 pharmaceutical companies, 20 largest biotech companies and leading academic institutes. The company is headquartered in Uppsala and has offices in the US, Japan and several European countries. Biotage has approx. 230 employees and had sales of 366,6 MSEK in 2004. Biotage is listed on the Stockholm stock exchange. Website: www.biotage.com

About Argonaut Technologies

Argonaut Technologies is a provider of innovative consumables, instruments, and services that enable chemists to accelerate drug discovery and development. The products enable chemists to increase productivity, reduce operating costs, achieve faster time-to-market, and explore the increasing number of targets and chemical compounds available for drug development. More than 1,200 customers use Argonaut's products worldwide. Argonaut Technologies is listed on NASDAQ. Website: www.argotech.com

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," and "should," among others. These forward-looking statements are based on Biotage'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, Biotage 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. Such uncertainties and risks include, but are not limited to, risks associated with management of growth and international operations (including the effects of currency fluctuations), variability of operating results, the commercial development of the microwave synthesis and flash purification in the drug discovery market, DNA sequencing and genomics market, nucleic acid-based molecular diagnostics market, and genetic vaccination and gene therapy markets, competition, rapid or unexpected changes in technologies, fluctuations in demand for Biotage's products (including seasonal fluctuations), difficulties in successfully adapting the Company's products to integrated solutions and producing such products, and the Company's ability to identify and develop new products and to differentiate its products from competitors.