

Whatman and GenVault Partner to Bring New Product to Clone Archiving Market

Industry Leaders Forge Alliance To Deliver Easy And Cost-effective Shipping, Storing and Automation of Clone DNA to laboratories

Clifton, NJ/San Diego, CA - October 26, 2004 - Whatman, a leader in separations technology, and GenVault, the leader in integrated biosample management, today announced a partnership to manufacture the EasyClone 384 plate. This unique product will deliver fast and reliable shipping, storage and back-up of samples to the clone market by formatting Whatman FTA technology into a 384-well storage and extraction plate designed by GenVault. As part of the agreement, GenVault will produce EasyClone 384 plates for Whatman, who will market and sell the plates.

This plate represents a new format for Whatman FTA technology and the CloneSaver product. Whatman FTA is a unique technology that allows for the safe and rapid isolation of pure DNA at room temperature. Samples collected on Whatman FTA-treated products provide end-users with an established range of effective tools and innovative solutions for the collection, purification, transportation and archive of nucleic acids.

"We are very excited about this partnership with GenVault," said Rob McPheeters, technical marketing manager of BioScience at Whatman. "There is a huge opportunity in the clone market for a product such as the EasyClone 384 plate, and it will allow scientists to meet the ever-increasing demands of genetic research. And because the plate meets SBS standards, it is compatible with the automation platforms found in today's high throughput environments."

The companies will target the plasmid and BAC DNA archiving market with the EasyClone 384 plate since it has value for laboratories with both high and low automation capabilities. As an additional benefit of the partnership, Whatman customers will be able to use GenVault's integrated biosample management systems to manage the EasyClone 384 plates.

"This partnership with Whatman will benefit both their customers and ours by expanding the capabilities of both groups. It will also bring a unique technology to the clone market and revolutionize the way laboratories collect, store and back-up clone samples." said David Wellis, vice president, business development, GenVault.

About Whatman BioScience Group

The Whatman BioScience Group is one of the three business development units within the Whatman organization. The BioScience Group provides a broad range of technologies for the collection, transportation, purification and analysis of nucleic acids. The group focuses on customers researching DNA across a range of industries, including forensics, academic research, diagnostics, clinical research, environmental science and agriculture.

About GenVault

GenVault is the leader in integrated biosample management. The company currently provides integrated archiving and retrieval solutions for organizations managing DNA collections. GenVault aims

to serve customers including medical centers, academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and law enforcement agencies. Future systems will also accommodate proteins and RNA to provide a comprehensive solution. As a scalable and reliable alternative to traditional freezer networks and DNA purification systems, GenVault's dry-state platform enables the extraction, preservation and recovery of DNA at room temperature. This novel sample management solution is configured for each customer's workflow and the planned growth of their biosample archive. From its GenPlate to its Dynamic Archive solution, GenVault is continuously developing and refining best practices for integrated biosample management. GenVault, a privately held company funded by Domain Associates, was founded in 2001 and is headquartered just north of San Diego in Carlsbad, California. More information can be found at www.genvault.com.

About Whatman

Whatman is a global leader in separations technology and is known in the scientific community for providing innovative life science products and solutions. Our instinct for simplification accelerates the rate of discovery, reduces costs and saves time. More information can be found at www.whatman.com.
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