

Press Release

BIONEER Corporation
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Bioneer supply MERS diagnostic kit

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In the midst of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (“MERS”) outbreak, which is spreading out in South Korea and killed two people already, Bioneer announced that they are starting to supply MERS diagnostic kits starting this month and it will play a significant role to block expansion of the virus in its early stage. The MERS virus was first identified in humans in 2012 in Saudi Arabia and the death toll had reached 385 by February 2015.

The MERS molecular diagnostic kit was developed using Bioneer’s proprietary *AccuPower® Dual-HotStart* RT-qPCR technologies. This one-step RT-qPCR technology utilizes Pyro-HotStart RT reaction and HotStart PCR. It allows the user to perform cDNA synthesis of the selective RNA and provides improved sensitivity from a small amount of template RNA. This kit is used with Bioneer’s *Exicycler™* 96 qPCR system or any other qPCR system.

Along with the qPCR system, the company’s sample prep system named ExiPrep 16 Dx incorporates an automated sample pipetting system. It enables the prevention of contamination, minimizing the potential for infection of the technician performing the tests. This is a critical feature for the labs dealing with the lethal virus.

Bioneer’s founder and CEO, Han-Oh Park, Ph.D. says that “the company is ready to respond to a new infectious disease promptly with its molecular diagnostic platform technologies. In detecting the virus in its early stage, it will contribute to preventing the virus from reaching epidemic status”.

Bioneer Corporation is a public company traded at KOSDAQ (064550:KS) in South Korea. It has a history of being a nimble developer of new virus diagnostic kits. When swine flu became pandemic in 2009, the company developed a diagnostic kit within approximately two weeks from the announcement of the sequence of the H1N1 virus, and provided millions of tests to South Korea and other countries. This enabled public health agencies to make prompt and accurate diagnoses required for correct treatment. The company’s vertical integration allows Bioneer to produce entire MDx diagnostics systems from raw materials to reagents and instrumentation in a mass production scale enabling an extremely rapid response to emerging diseases.