



## **Biomātrica Wins “Most Innovative New Product” Award for its Revolutionary “Sample Management at Room Temperature” System**

**SAN DIEGO, DECEMBER 19, 2006** - Biomātrica received CONNECT's “Most Innovative New Product” Award for its bio-sample storage system. The award, presented in the Life Sciences – Diagnostics & Research Tools division, was announced at the San Diego entrepreneurship organization's 19<sup>th</sup> annual showcase for innovative technology.

Biomātrica's storage system, which includes SampleMatrix™, a dissolvable storage medium, SampleGard™, its sample storage and transportation system and SampleWare™, the organization and retrieval software, enables scientists and researchers to ship, store and manage lab samples at room temperature.

“As molecular biologists, Rolf and I were well aware of the growing issues related to lab sample storage. There are 900,000,000 DNA samples – 370,000,000 in the U.S. alone – and this number will double over the next few years,” says Judy Muller-Cohn, Biomātrica's President and CEO, and half of the husband and wife team that created the company. “In addition to the cost of freezers, samples are also degraded by freezing and thawing, or simply lost, which is a major challenge in the genomics and proteomics age.

“We were looking for a better, simpler solution, and developed a process based on anhydrobiosis. If organisms can survive without water in dry places for up to 120 years, we believed this molecular mechanism could be effective for biological sample storage. That became the basis for our storage system. To have it recognized by CONNECT is not just an honor, but also a validation that it is an innovative solution.”

The SampleMatrix storage medium is effective for DNA, RNA, cells, proteins and blood, although the year-old company is initially focusing on DNA storage. This has enabled them to attract a range of high-profile laboratories, including biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, forensic and county crime labs and federal government agencies.

### **Shrink-wrapped DNA for superior recovery levels**

The Biomatrix system begins with the SampleMatrix storage medium. Liquid samples are added to the well tube that comes pre-loaded with SampleMatrix. The dissolvable polymer forms a protective seal around the sample as it dries, essentially shrink-wrapping the DNA, RNA, cell, protein or blood sample.

The SampleGard storage and transportation system, available in a multi-well plate or individual tube, enables cost effective, simple, secure labeling and shipping of precious samples. SampleWare, the system's organization and retrieval software, enables scientists to manage samples and interface stored materials with data.

Samples are recovered by rehydrating for 15 minutes, and can immediately be used for transformation, PCR, transfection, sequencing, genotyping or whole genome amplification without further purification. Because the samples are held at room temperature, there is no loss due to freeze-thaw damage.

"The feedback we've been getting from labs that are using our system bears this out," adds Muller-Cohn. "A San Diego forensics lab stored DNA samples for one year in SampleMatrix and in a -20° C freezer. Sample retrieval yields were three to six times greater with the SampleMatrix samples than the frozen samples. That's at about one-twentieth the cost of freezer storage – The combination of efficacy and cost-effectiveness is what got us started in the first place."

### **About Biomatrix Inc.**

Biomatrix Inc. is a San Diego-based company focused on biostability. Its proprietary biological sample storage system keeps nucleic acids, proteins, cells and blood stable, protected and safe at room temperature. With the novel SampleMatrix storage medium, SampleGard system and SampleWare software, biological samples can be easily stored, shipped and recovered at the lab bench, without the need for a freezer or cold shipping. For more information, visit [www.biomatrix.com](http://www.biomatrix.com).

### **About Connect**

CONNECT is a globally recognized public benefits organization fostering entrepreneurship in the San Diego region by catalyzing, accelerating, and supporting the growth of the most promising technology and life sciences businesses. Founded in 1985 at the urging of San Diego's business community, CONNECT is widely regarded as the nation's most successful regional program linking high-technology and life science entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success: technology, money, markets, management, partners and support services. [www.connect.org](http://www.connect.org)

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