

Japan-UK companies collaborate to develop novel hand-held wireless diagnostic devices

Tokyo, Japan, and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK. — Nov. 21st, 2007 Early-stage nanobiotechnology firm Orla Protein Technologies Ltd (Orla) and leading Japanese electronics manufacturer Japan Radio Co., Ltd. (JRC) have today signed an agreement for the next stage in their ongoing development of a range of ground-breaking diagnostic devices.

The novel devices will be used by doctors and paramedics to perform near patient testing without the requirement for complex equipment resulting in earlier and more effective treatment for patients and providing savings for healthcare providers. Simple to use, small, low cost and portable they will provide instant test results for viruses, bacteria and protein markers. Test results will be stored electronically, and be capable of wireless transmission, opening significant opportunities in the multi-million dollar diagnostics market.

JRC is an established leader in the development of surface acoustic wave (SAW) devices which are currently used in mobile phones and other wireless electronic devices. Orla is pioneering the convergence of such technologies with life sciences applications by utilising proprietary surface technology. The collaboration will make mass manufacture of these bio-devices a reality.

Dr Hiromi Yatsuda, Deputy General Manager of the JRC SAW device R&D centre said "JRC was founded in 1915 and Orla in 2002. We are different nationalities and from different industrial fields, but we are now working together to create state-of-the-art biosensor products for human healthcare. "

Dr Dale Athey, CEO of Orla, commented, "We are honoured to be working with such an established partner as Japan Radio. Their expertise in mass manufacture and sensor technology, combined with Orla's novel biosurface technology provides a unique opportunity to create a leading position in the biodiagnostic marketplace."

About Orla

Orla Protein Technologies Ltd, is a nanobiotechnology company focussed upon high performance biosurfaces which have applications in Cell culture, Life Science tools and Reagents, and Diagnostics. The core technology was developed by Professor Jeremy Lakey, Professor of Structural Biochemistry at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. Orla was founded in 2002 and received seed investment from NEL Fund Managers Ltd in 2003. For more information see www.orlaproteins.com

About JRC

Japan Radio Company is a company for manufacture and sale of radio communication equipment, which is based in Tokyo Japan. JRC shall apply its creative powers to the development of innovative technologies and excellent products. For more information see www.jrc.co.jp/eng/