

Accelerating Research & Development of a Norovirus Vaccine  
Purchasing Land for R&D Site in Germany and Applying for Phase I Clinical Trial in Europe



Conceptual image of the New R&D Facility

Denka Company Limited (headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; president: Manabu Yamamoto; hereinafter, "Denka") announces that Icon Genetics GmbH (hereinafter, "Icon Genetics"), a group company of Denka, concluded a land purchase agreement with the government of Halle, Sachsen-Anhalt in Germany for the construction of a new facility on March 11, 2020 (local time) as part of its healthcare business enhancement.

Currently, the Denka Group, mainly Icon Genetics, is advancing the research & development of raw materials to be used for a norovirus vaccine and medical reagents by using its technological platform magnICON<sup>®</sup> and submitted a notice of claimed investigational trial exemption of norovirus regarding the phase I clinical trial in Europe in February. In addition, the enhancement of facilities has become necessary. Therefore, the Group has decided to purchase approximately 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land in Weinberg Campus Technological Park in Halle, which is near Icon Genetics, and to construct a facility that will serve as a central base for its research & development and production.

The Denka Group positioned healthcare-related businesses as one of the three priority fields in the Denka Value-Up Management Plan and is consolidating management resources in this field. Through this investment, the Group will accelerate the new businesses and product development at Icon Genetics and contribute to the solution of social issues, including the early practical creation of vaccines for norovirus, which has a high rate of infectability and has not established an effective means of prevention or means for a cure.

\* magnICON is a registered trademark of Icon Genetics GmbH.

## Overview of Icon Genetics

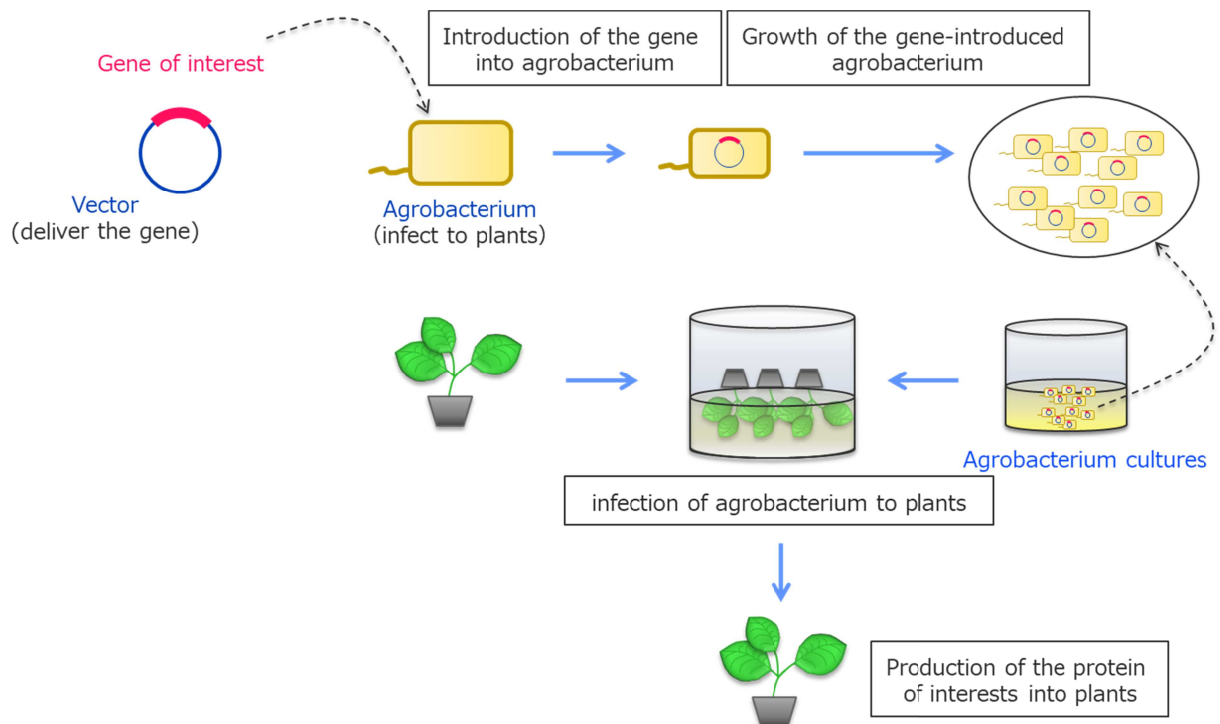
(1) Name	Icon Genetics GmbH
(2) Location	Halle, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany
(3) Position and name of director	CEO, Kazuyuki Hiruta
(4) Line of business	Research and development, trusted research and service provision of biopharmaceuticals
(5) Capital	25,000 euro
(6) Founded	1999
(7) Shareholder composition	Denka Company Limited: 100%

### About magnICON®

magnICON® is one of the genetic modification technologies that uses plants.

A gene that produces protein is injected into a vector(\*) that delivers a targeted gene, and then it is introduced to agrobacterium (a bacteria that infects plants). After cultivating this agrobacterium, a grown plant is immersed in the agrobacterium solution and infected with it. Then, the plant is raised to produce the desired protein. magnICON® improves the production ability of protein by incorporating the gene that produces protein at a vector.

\* Vector: A container that can deliver a gene of the desired protein to be developed in a host cell



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