

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 a part of its healthcare business enhancement.

Currently, the Denka Group, mainly Icon Genetics, is advancing the research & development of key biological materials to be used for a norovirus vaccine and diagnostic reagents by using its technological platform magnICON[®] and submitted an application for permission of Phase I clinical trial for its norovirus vaccine to the European regulatory authorities in February. In addition, the reinforcement/augmentation of facilities has become necessary. Therefore, the Group has decided to purchase approximately 50,000 m² 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 health problems, including the early commercialization of vaccines for norovirus, which is highly infectious while no effective means for prevention or cure have been established.

* magnICON is a registered trademark of Icon Genetics GmbH.

Overview of Icon Genetics

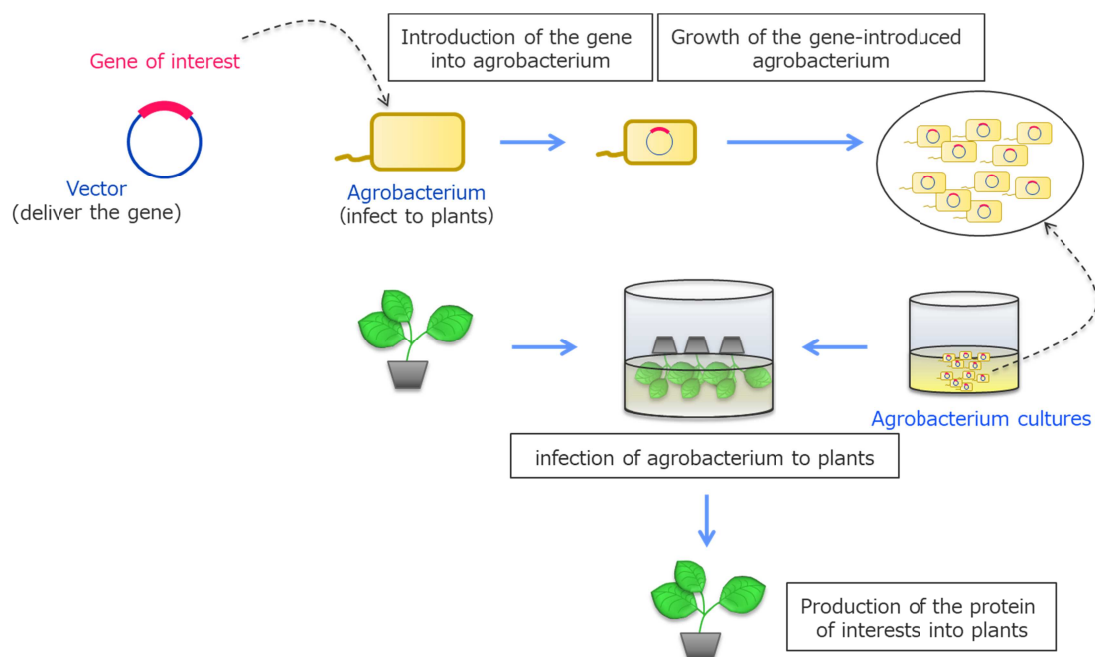
(1) Name	Icon Genetics GmbH
(2) Location	Halle, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany
(3) Position and name of director	CEO, Kazuyuki Hiruta
(4) Line of business	Research and development of biological pharmaceutical products, provision of contract research and services
(5) Capital	25,000 euro
(6) Founded	1999
(7)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

About magnICON®

magnICON® is a transient gene expression system using plants to produce target proteins efficiently.

A gene encoding target protein is inserted into a plant viral vector(*) that is intended to deliver the gene to host plant's protein production mechanisms, and then the vector is introduced into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (bacteria that infect plants). After cultivating the vector-carrying bacteria and preparing a solution containing the bacteria, a host plant is immersed in the bacteria-containing solution and is allowed to be infected with the bacteria. Then, the infected plant is incubated to produce the desired protein. magnICON® improves remarkably the efficiency of producing target proteins using host plant mechanisms by incorporating the heterologous genes encoding the proteins in a plant viral vector.

* Vector: A container/vehicle that can deliver a gene of the desired protein to be expressed in a host cell



For inquiries about this press release:

CSR & Corporate Communications Dept .

Tel: +81 3 5290 5511