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deltaDOT technologies and Imperial College Department of Biochemistry form collaboration to build a revolutionary drug discovery system.

Project to be funded under DTI/BBSRC LINK Programme in Applied Genomics –

London 1st October 2002. A £1.6 million collaboration between deltaDOT technologies and the lab of Professor Tony Cass of Imperial College London to develop a revolutionary system for the analysis of candidate drugs was announced today.

The three year collaboration, known as the protein folding chip consortium, will be based at Imperial College, London and will develop and build a new system for the analysis of potential drug candidates in a high-throughput fully automated environment. This will dramatically decrease the time taken in early clinical development to identify lead compounds for further drug trials.

The development of new therapeutic compounds is hugely costly and time consuming; it is estimated that the current total cost of getting a drug to market is approximately \$608 million. Combined with the advent of pharmacogenomics, or 'personalised medicine' the Pharmaceutical industry needs novel technologies to increase the efficacy and throughput of its screening processes to decrease the cost of drug development. This, combined with the current reduction in 'blockbuster' treatments, presents the Biomedical research world with a unique problem.

In response to this need, the system under development will combine the cross-disciplinary platform technology that deltaDOT has developed with the protein biochemistry expertise of the Imperial College department of Biochemistry. This system will facilitate the rapid screening of candidate drug compounds for interactions with protein targets, such as key receptors implicated in cancer progression, using a novel combination of measurements. These measurements will be analysed using conventional computer technology to produce a new dataset on protein stability.

deltaDOT is working at the forefront of biotechnology and bioinformatics, at the interface with innovatory materials, computation, microstructures and pattern recognition. The combination of nuclear physics detection technology, algorithms and analytical instrumentation offered by deltaDOT has given a new paradigm in biotechnology, label free intrinsic imaging, which allows direct monitoring of unlabelled biomolecules at unrivalled resolution with unique sensitivity.