

BC Platforms, September 8th, 2010

BC Platforms' data management system to enhance data storage, sharing and analysis at the Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu

BC Platforms Ltd announces the signing of a multi-year contract for the delivery of its BC|SNPmax and BC|SEQUENCE data management platforms for the Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu (EGC UT). The company's data management platforms enable EGC UT efficiently and securely store, share and analyze the massive amounts of research data produced from the samples in the Estonian Gene Bank.

Accelerating the efficient utilization of genetic and clinical data collected and produced by the Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu

The aim of the Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu, is to create a database of health, genealogical and genome data representing 5% of Estonia's population. The database will make it possible for researchers both in Estonia and outside Estonia to look for links between genes, environmental factors and common diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, depression and cardio-vascular diseases. The results of this research are likely to lead to new discoveries in genomics and epidemiology, and will be instrumental in increasing the efficiency of health care.

BC Platforms' data management system will be used to manage the huge amounts of data produced by modern high-throughput SNP genotyping instruments as well as the variation data produced using Next Generation Sequencing devices. Output files from these devices can be directly uploaded into the database, and integrated with other types of genetic data, creating a highly productive data analysis pipeline. Researchers at the Estonian Gene Bank can access their database online through a secure web-browser interface, facilitating collaboration among researchers and collaborators.

The project is financed by European Union Regional Development Fund in the frame of medium infrastructure grant.

About the Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu

The Estonian Genome Center is a research venture of the University of Tartu since 2007. EGC UT started collecting tissue samples from gene donors in October 2002. In September 2010, the gene bank contained data from close to 48,000 gene donors. An expected increase in the number of gene donors (forecasted to reach 50 000 within 2010) will make it possible to run various nested case-control studies. The bank of gene data compiled by EGC UT makes it a valuable partner for research institutions.

About BC Platforms

BC Platforms is a Finnish SME providing data management and analysis platforms and related services for genetic research. Starting with pioneering solutions for a large diabetes research project, BC Platforms has developed genetic data management tools since 1997. Today it has a wide international customer base including research groups in academic institutions, research centres and biotechnology companies worldwide.

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