

St. Louis, MO -January 3, 2019 bioMérieux, Inc., a world leader in the field of food safety, and FREMONTA Corporation are proud to announce the demonstration of the compatibility of GENE-UP® *E. coli* O157:H7 assay (ECO) and *Salmonella* assay (SLM) assays and the MicroTally™ swabs for beef samples.

Reliable detection of food pathogens—particularly *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7 — is of paramount importance to beef manufacturers due of the grave dangers these pathogens hold. It is estimated that since 1982 up to one-third of the outbreaks and cases world wide of *E.coli* O157:H7 related illnesses are attributed to beef.¹ According to the CDC, in the US the 2018 beef recall alone documented 246 reported cases in 25 states with 59 hospitalizations.² These incidences lead to high stakes for consumer safety, brand protection, and industry reputation.

To demonstrate fit-for-purpose application of MicroTally™ Swabs for the detection of *Salmonella* spp. and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 when using the previously validated GENE-UP enrichment and real-time PCR, a matrix extension verification was conducted. The findings provide laboratories and the beef industry confidence that the results of MicroTally™ sampling in conjunction with GENE-UP analysis are valid.

Sampling techniques developed by USDA Meat Animal Research Scientist using MicroTally Swabs have been validated in Beef Processing plants in over 1400 comparison tests to identify pathogens and indicator organism. The results of these validation tests have prompted the USDA FSIS to certify that this sampling technique is equal to or better than the current sampling technology.

Real-Time PCR Solution for Pathogen Detection

With GENE-UP®, molecular pathogen detection has never been simpler, faster or more flexible. GENE-UP® offers ease of use, an intuitive interface, internal controls in every test, as well as AOAC Performance Tested MethodsSM certification from the AOAC Research Institute (AOAC-RI) for *Salmonella*, *Cronobacter*, *Listeria* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *E. coli* O157:H7 and STEC (Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*). The GENE-UP is also unique in that it provides an open platform for maximum flexibility to perform CEERAMTOOLS® kits for the detection of virus & parasites, including Norovirus GI, Norovirus GII, Hepatitis A virus and Hepatitis E virus.

About bioMérieux

Pioneering Diagnostics

A world leader in the field of in vitro diagnostics for more than 50 years, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 42 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2016, revenues reached €2,103 million, with more than 90% of international sales.

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (reagents, instruments, software) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its

¹ Retrieved from <http://www.meatpoultryfoundation.org/fact-sheets/e-coli-o157h7>

² Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/newport-10-18/index.html>

products are mainly used for diagnosing infectious diseases. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

bioMérieux is listed on the Euronext Paris market (Symbol: BIM – ISIN: FR0010096479).

Corporate website: www.biomerieux.com

U.S. website : www.biomerieux-usa.com Investor website: www.biomerieux-finance.com

About FREMONTA Corp.

Advancing Testing Technology

FREMONTA is an independent Corporation created to bring the latest advancements in sampling and analysis technology to the Food Processing Industry. Partnering with USDA Meat Animal Research Scientist and Food Industry Leaders, FREMONTA is producing and delivering the latest testing methodology and sampling devices to the market. FREMONTA's mission is to provide the most effective sampling techniques that guarantee the most comprehensive and accurate results. FREMONTA is a US company producing sampling devices and analysis equipment in the United States.

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