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Labcyte Granted Patent for Acoustic Transfer of Living Cells and Solid Particles

Sunnyvale, CA, February 1, 2005 – Labcyte Inc. announced today that it has been granted its 16th patent, US 6,849,423, for the rapid and gentle transfer of cells and particles, including beads, with acoustic energy. This patent describes the use of focused acoustics to move cells and particles between microplates and as well as to form arrays of single living cells efficiently, quickly, flexibly and economically. Focused acoustic technology is the basis of the award-winning Labcyte® Echo™ 550 compound reformatter and the Echo™ 380 auditor shown for the first time this week at LabAutomation 2005.

Dr. Elaine J. Heron, Chief Executive Officer of Labcyte Inc., said, “This technique is extraordinarily gentle to cells. Unlike pipette-based transfers that subject cells to considerable shear forces, cells transferred by acoustic techniques are stress free. In addition to transferring cells, the patent describes an integrated instrument and a method for the efficient and continuous sorting of cells based upon quantitative cellular properties. This continues our expansion in the application of acoustics in the life sciences.”

The Labcyte® Echo™ 550 compound reformatter uses the technologies described in US patents 6,666,541 and 6,802,593 as well as others in the company’s portfolio of 16 US patents. This system recently received an R&D 100 award for technical innovation and was the subject of scientific presentations on its use at pharmaceutical companies in the arena of high-throughput screening (HTS).

To review the patent, please visit

<http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO2&Sect2=HITOFF&p=1&u=/netahtml/search-bool.html&r=1&f=G&l=50&col=AND&d=ptxt&s1=6,849,423.WKU.&OS=PN/6,849,423&RS=PN/6,849,423>

To see a video of acoustic droplet formation, please visit

<http://www.labcyte.com/aboutus/technology/2nL.mpg>



For more information on the Echo 550 Compound Reformatter, please visit <http://www.labcyte.com/products/hardware/Echo550.html>

Labcyte Inc. is a privately held company that was formed by the merger of Picoliter Inc. and Labcyte, LLC in October 2003. The company is headquartered in Sunnyvale, California and provides a line of compact liquid and plate handling systems, plastic laboratory supplies, as well as the Echo 550 compound dispenser. The Labcyte acoustic liquid handling technology has broad applications in the life science including dispensing equipment, assay systems, particle manufacturing, microarrays, and living cell transfer devices. Labcyte has 16 issued US patents on acoustic technology and over 20 U.S. patent applications pending as well as additional international filings. For more information, visit the company's website, www.labcyte.com.