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Labcyte Granted Patent for Rapid Acoustic Transfer of Nanovolumes in Microplate Formats

Sunnyvale, CA, October 27, 2004 – Labcyte Inc. announced today that it has been granted US patent 6,802,593 for rapidly transferring fluids from a multi-well plate with acoustic energy. This patent describes the use of focused acoustics for the transfer of liquids at speeds greater than one second per well.

Dr. Elaine J. Heron, Chief Executive Officer of Labcyte Inc., said, “This patent covers our enablement of a process that simultaneously meets the speed, accuracy and low volume needs of life science researchers. It describes liquid transfers at rates that keep pace with the other steps in high throughput screening and other industrialized assay processes in all well-plate formats including 96-, 384-, 1536-well micro-plates and other high-density formats. Four major pharmaceutical companies are now using this process in our award-winning Echo 550 compound reformatter to precisely transfer nanoliter volumes.”

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 13 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://164.195.100.11/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=/netahtml/srchnum.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s1=6802593.WKU.&OS=PN/6802593&RS=PN/6802593>

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>

For a presentation on the Echo 550 and its use in the pharmaceutical industry, please visit

<http://www.labcyte.com/news/events/SpicerSBS.ppt>

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 13 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.