

Eurofins contributes to European Commission project on allergy detection

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Eurofins Scientific (EUFI.PA), the global leader in food and feed testing, has been selected as the main industry laboratory participant in a four-year European Commission-sponsored research project to formulate a standardised protocol for allergy risk management in food manufacturing. Following the validation of its LC-MS/MS allergen detection method as technically superior to the widely-used PCR and ELISA methods in 2012, Eurofins has been chosen to contribute to the project that will set industry standards in the field of allergen detection.

The EC-funded study, **Integrated Approaches to Food Allergen and Allergy Risk Management** (IFAAM)¹, aims to produce a standardized set of regulations and management process for companies involved in food manufacturing, and will also develop the necessary tools to enforce these regulations².

As communicated previously³, Eurofins' experts developed the above detection method that has been cited in several peer-reviewed publications as more accurate than current widely-used methodologies. Eurofins' LC-MS/MS allergen detection method, effective especially for processed matrices, allows stakeholders across the food industry to make improved risk management decisions, based on reliable analytical data. IFAAM is set to use this methodology as a centerpiece of the study for wider application across the food industry.

Comment from **Dr. Bert Popping**, Eurofins Scientific Director: *"The IFAAM project will contribute towards improvement in risk management of allergens based on our more reliable mass spectrometry analysis. Eurofins is pleased to contribute to this EC-funded project by sharing this methodology and further developing it for routine use across the industry."*

Comment from **Clare Mills**, Prof at University of Manchester and project Leader of IFAAM: *"The evidence base and tools that result from this will support more transparent precautionary "may contain" labelling of allergens in foods which will make life easier for allergy sufferers as they try to avoid problem foods."*

¹ European Commission Integrated Approaches to Food Allergen and Allergy Risk Management http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=proj.document&PJ_RCN=13141237

² iFAAM Press Release 22 March 2013 <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/>

³ Eurofins Press Release 09 January 2013 <http://www.eurofins.com/en/media-centre/press-releases/2013-01-09.aspx>

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Notes for the editor:

Eurofins – a global leader in bio-analysis

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With over 13,000 staff in more than 170 laboratories across 35 countries, Eurofins offers a portfolio of over 100,000 reliable analytical methods for evaluating the safety, identity, composition, authenticity, origin and purity of biological substances and products. The Group provides its customers with high-quality services, accurate results in time and expert advice by its highly qualified staff.

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