



What's New

NEN INTRODUCES MICROMAX™ HUMAN cDNA MICROARRAY SYSTEM I FOR DIFFERENTIAL GENE EXPRESSION ANALYSIS

First Commercially Available Glass System is Pre-spotted with 2,400 Genes

Boston, MA -- NEN® Life Science Products, Inc. is introducing the first complete, fully validated microarray product system for differential gene expression analysis. The MICROMAX™ Human cDNA Microarray System I is the first in a line of microarray products designed to provide high throughput and high sensitivity expression profiling for the typical research lab. The system includes two identical glass microarray slides, pre-spotted with human genes, all key reagents, and a detailed protocol. In addition to the system, NEN offers slide reading and analysis services, and web-based access to gene data on NEN's website. Product will be available during the second quarter of 1999.

The MICROMAX Human cDNA Microarray System I contains two, 1" x 3" microarray slides, each pre-spotted with 2,400 known genes. Except for a small number of plant control genes, all genes are from 50+ human cDNA libraries created by AlphaGene, Inc. (Woburn, MA). In this first microarray, 10+ tissue sources are represented, over 40% of which are full-length genes. The 2,400 genes are characterized functionally based on Prosite "motif" search, and are readily identifiable through a gene data base resident on NEN's website, linked to the NIH GenBank.

Also included in the system are reagents for cDNA labeling and hybridization, and NEN's patented, proprietary TSA™ (Tyramide Signal Amplification) reagents with cyanine 3 and cyanine 5 for signal generation, amplification and detection. TSA reduces the amount of starting sample required by as much as 50-fold, and because of its exceptionally high sensitivity, permits the detection of mRNA expression at levels far below those detectable by other methods.

cDNA microarray technology is a powerful tool in modern functional genomics research, enabling the study of whole functional pathways or even complete genomes, as opposed to individual genes. Through miniaturization, these so-called "DNA chips" also offer multiple-order-of-magnitude productivity improvements over traditional molecular biology protocols. Until the introduction of the MICROMAX Human cDNA Microarray System I, however, scientists wishing to use the technology usually had to do most of the work themselves, including in-house development of cDNA libraries, array formatting, reagent sourcing, and assay development and validation. MICROMAX Human cDNA Microarray System I is the first product that offers a practical means by which labs of any size can realize the benefits of microarray technology.

NEN is introducing the MICROMAX system in collaboration with AlphaGene, which uses its patented Full-Length Expressed Gene (FLEX™) technology to produce full-length genes in cDNA libraries, then formats the genes onto the MICROMAX glass slides. AlphaGene also brings key expertise in bioinformatics to the collaboration.

NEN Life Science Products is a provider of fluorescent, chemiluminescent and radioactive labeling and detection products for life science research and drug discovery. For further information, contact:

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