

AyoxxA wins 2nd prize at Asian Entrepreneurship Award



Dr Dieter Trau (far right) presented their technology at AEA.

AyoxxA Biosystems scored again. The company which has its origins as an NUS Bioengineering startup in 2010, won the second prize (1.5 million yens or S\$19,500) in the Asian Entrepreneurship Award (AEA) 2013 an international business competition for young Asian entrepreneurs.

Said Dr Dieter Trau, co-founder of the company and its Chief Scientific Officer, "The competition was very strong. There were 20 teams – with six from Japan, three from China the rest from other Asian countries."

Winning an award at the AEA offers AyoxxA a significant opportunity to showcase its innovative technology and sound business strategy and forge

new collaborations with experts not only in Japan and Asia, but also the world over, added Dr Andreas Schmidt, CEO, AyoxxA Biosystems.

Just early this year, the biotechnology company has announced that it has added a second closing to its Series A financing round, with KfW Bankengruppe joining the ranks of investors. The recent 0.4 million Euro (0.6 million SGD) investment is an addition to the 2.6 million Euro (4.6 million SGD) Series A financing round closed in September 2012.

At the same time AyoxxA has entered a research collaboration agreement with the NUS Department of Bioengineering to further strengthen its discovery and development projects. This collaboration is expected to occur over a two-year period and will be focused on developing the platform technology in relation to drug targets. The resources will be used to drive the further development of AyoxxA's proprietary platform technology and the scale-up of production of its novel bead-based biochips as the company moves towards commercialization.

AyoxxA's technology is aimed at transforming the throughput and accuracy of protein analysis to deliver the analytical power now seen only for DNA arrays. The platform is based around proprietary In-situ Encoded Bead-based Arrays (IEBA) exclusively licenced from NUS which allow the simultaneous measurement of multiple proteins from minute samples.

Unlike current bead-based microarrays, AyoxxA's IEBA need no physical label to allow multiplex analysis and thus hugely reduce the complexity of downstream analysis, while increasing the number of individual proteins that can be analysed at the same time. The arrays are designed to be readily adaptable to standard high throughput screening system and offer the potential of tens of thousands of ELISA assays in a single well of a biochip.

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