



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MMI Genomics Launches DNA Certified Beef Program

—Programs promise better production control while minimizing food safety risks—

*Davis, Ca., January 19, 2004*—MMI Genomics, Inc.(MMIG), a wholly owned subsidiary of MetaMorphix Inc., has developed superior technology to track cattle throughout the food production chain both simply and cost-effectively. The first application of this technology is MMIG's DNA Certified Beef Program, an integrated food source management system that utilizes patented DNA-tags and tagging devices to provide the ultimate in source verification from producer to consumer. DNA-based sampling and storage enhances the value of beef, by providing the cattle industry with the ability to establish and build consumer confidence in food source and quality.

“With recent events highlighting the need for ranchers, feedlot operators, and food processors to be able to document the movements of their cattle and meat products, we believe that our DNA Certified Beef Programs will become an integral part of superior animal management practices. DNA of an individual animal remains invariant throughout its life, making DNA an ideal method in determining an animal's identity with absolute confidence from its birth to the consumer's table,” said Edwin Quattlebaum, Chairman, CEO and President of MetaMorphix Inc.

“By working within existing systems of tagging cattle, DNA-based matching technology provides easy implementation and cost effective tracking of individual meat products to retail segments,” said Stephen Bates, Vice President and General Manager of MMI Genomics. “A unique plus to the system is in the event a tag is tampered with or lost, an animal's true identity can be determined by providing MMIG with a biological sample for analysis permitting the animal to be ‘re-tagged’.”

MMI Genomics' three DNA Certified Beef Programs; Ranch Certified Beef, Feedlot Certified Beef, and Packer Certified Beef, can easily be incorporated into standard

industry practices. Ranchers and feeders can substitute current tags with MMIG patented DNA-tags and packing plants can utilize the Company's carcass samplers to identify individual animals without making any changes to the current fabrication process. DNA samples will be mailed to MMIG requiring no special handling or shipping procedures. When safely stored, these samples provide unique lifetime identification of the animal and its meat products.

**About MMI Genomics, Inc.**

MMI Genomics Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of MetaMorphix Inc., is based in Davis California. MMIG develops innovative life science technologies to introduce environmentally friendly solutions that improve food and human and animal well-being.

**About MetaMorphix, Inc.**

Founded in 1994 and based in Savage, Maryland, MetaMorphix, Inc., a privately held life sciences company, is dedicated to discovering and commercializing multiple technology platforms to naturally improve the food supply and human health.

Drawing on three distinct technology platforms – growth differentiation factors (GDFs), genomics/proteomics and immunopharmaceuticals – MetaMorphix has more than a dozen products in various stages of development. These products are intended to vastly improve livestock breeding and production and to create more nutritious, consistent-quality meat. Further, the company is leveraging a licensing agreement, using its GDF technology platform, to research potential applications to serious human health conditions.

*Certain statements in this press release are forward-looking. These may be identified by the use of forward-looking words or phrases such as "believe," "expect," "intend," "anticipate," "should," "planned," "estimated," and "potential," among others. These forward-looking statements are based on MetaMorphix Inc.'s current expectations. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "safe harbor" for such forward-looking statements. In order to comply with the terms of the safe harbor, MetaMorphix Inc. notes that a variety of factors could cause actual results and experience to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties that may affect the operations, performance, development, and results of MetaMorphix Inc.'s businesses include but are not limited to; (1) unproven use of scientific information to develop or commercialize products; and (2) other factors that might be described from time to time in MetaMorphix Inc.'s business plan and regulatory filings.*