



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MetaMorphix, Inc. and Monsanto Company Announce Collaboration to Improve Pork Quality

June 8, 2004, Savage, Maryland, St. Louis, Missouri- MetaMorphix, Inc. and Monsanto Company (NYSE: MON) today announced an important collaboration focused on applying genomic technologies to provide genetic improvements in pork.

By drawing on MetaMorphix's advanced genomic SNP mapping capabilities, the GENIUS-Whole Genome System™, Monsanto scientists can more quickly and accurately identify precise locations of the genome responsible for several economically important meat quality, health, reproduction and production traits. In the future, producers, packers and consumers will benefit from the application of this technology via the development of more desirable products for the pork industry.

"MetaMorphix is pleased to be entering into a collaboration with one of the leading pork genetics companies, Monsanto Choice Genetics and its parent Monsanto Company, the pioneer in introducing agricultural biotechnology to the global marketplace," said Edwin Quattlebaum, Ph.D., chairman and chief executive officer of MetaMorphix, Inc.

Using MetaMorphix's GENIUS-Whole Genome System™, Monsanto can better select beneficial traits that can be applied through Monsanto Choice Genetics' marker-assisted pork improvement program. Monsanto Choice Genetics, a division of Monsanto Company, is focused on providing high quality genetics to pork producers, packers and consumers. The combination of these resources will improve the efficiency of identifying naturally occurring genetic variation and accelerate Monsanto's ability to bring these improvements to the marketplace.

"Our agreement with MetaMorphix will extend the application of our genetics tools, enabling Monsanto's customers to more accurately and efficiently deliver improved meat products," said Robb Fraley, chief technology officer of Monsanto. "Combining the genomics capabilities of MetaMorphix with the product development capabilities of Monsanto is an excellent example of Monsanto's dedication to the swine industry through the extension of Monsanto's genomic infrastructure benefits to pork production."

Under the collaboration, MetaMorphix is providing Monsanto with an exclusive royalty-bearing license to access MetaMorphix's porcine GENIUS-Whole Genome System™, which utilizes a map of approximately 600,000 SNPs, and the associated intellectual

property. In addition, MetaMorphix will provide consulting and support in the use of its database resource. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

In March 2002, MetaMorphix acquired Celera's animal genomics and genotyping business, along with exclusive rights to sequenced genomes in swine, cattle and poultry.

About MetaMorphix, Inc.

Founded in 1994 and based in Savage, Maryland, MetaMorphix, Inc. is a privately held life sciences company that uses the code of life DNA to improve the global food supply and human health. For more information on MetaMorphix, see: www.metamorphixinc.com.

About Monsanto Company

Monsanto Choice Genetics provides the swine industry with superior genetics. It is a subsidiary of Monsanto Company with headquarters in St. Louis. Monsanto Choice Genetics' research capabilities, made possible through Monsanto, position it to develop superior technology to deliver advancements for swine producers. Currently, Monsanto Choice Genetics customers are among the top pork producers in the world.

Monsanto Company is a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality. For more information on Monsanto, see: www.monsanto.com

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.