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METAMORPHIX, INC. AND STIRIUS, INC. ANNOUNCE JOINT VENTURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGIES

Joint Venture to develop technologies for sustainable aquaculture to be commercialized by newly formed company called AquaAnimal Health, Inc.

BELTSVILLE, MD and NINETY SIX, SC –March 22, 2010– MetaMorphix, Inc. (MMI) and Stirius, Inc. today announced that MMI and Stirius have formed AquaAnimal Health, Inc. to develop aquaculture technologies to enhance production profitability and advance disease resistance. AquaAnimal Health is an aquaculture animal health company dedicated to serving the rapidly growing finfish and crustacean industry around the world. MMI has granted AquaAnimal Health a license to its proprietary Myotatin technology and an option to its **GENIUS – Whole Genome System™** for use in aquaculture. The financial details of the agreement have not been disclosed.

One of MMI's lead technology platforms, Myostatin, a natural protein which is a potent regulator of muscle growth, is present in humans, animals and has been identified in over 40 species of fish as well as in economically important aquatic invertebrates such as shrimp, scallops and crab. Natural inhibition of Myostatin in finfish has recently been shown to produce more muscle protein and increase feed efficiency. The Company believes that the technology will increase aquaculture productivity, a multi-billion dollar industry that is growing faster than all other protein sectors. The suite of new products, MyoAqua I and II, are projected to reduce the feed consumption ratios while strengthening aquaculture profits. Stirius CEO Karl Kelly, said, "We believe that aquaculture answers many of the concerns in the pending world protein crisis as well as provides environmental advantages over beef, poultry and swine production. The AquaAnimal Health Myostatin technology has the potential to decrease the producer's total feed costs while improving annual production."

Aquaculture is dependent on constant breeding to retain and enhance fish and crustaceans quality. AquaAnimal Health will employ the MMI technology to sustain superior characteristics across all aquaculture breeding. MMI's technology, DNA-based marker diagnostics for agriculture, has been used to predict how livestock perform with regard to meat quality and production efficiency. MMI markets test kits for meat quality and production efficiency traits validated on several hundred thousand head of commercial cattle. Employing the proven MMI genomic technology in aquaculture will provide similar benefits to increase aquaculture productivity as well as increase resistance to disease. "We feel marker assisted selection will allow breeders to identify aquaculture species with superior traits, thereby improving quality and production efficiency. We are very pleased to have Stirus, with their wealth of experience and knowledge of life science industry, jointly developing and commercializing our technologies," said Dr. Edwin Quattlebaum, MMI President & CEO. AquaAnimal Health is currently evaluating sites across South Carolina for the establishment of process development and aquaculture research laboratories.

About MetaMorphix, Inc.

MetaMorphix, Inc. is a life sciences company dedicated to discovering and commercializing multiple technology platforms to improve human and animal health. The company and its corporate partners are developing products to substantially increase livestock quality and production efficiency, to improve companion animal health, and to treat human muscle degenerative diseases and metabolic disorders utilizing MetaMorphix's animal genomics and growth and differentiation factors (GDFs) technologies. MetaMorphix was founded in 1994; it has headquarters in Beltsville, MD, and lab facilities in Davis, CA.

About Stirus, Inc.

Stirus, Inc., chartered in 1993, supports emerging life science companies including biopharmaceuticals, animal genetics, agricultural biotechnology and biochemicals. Located in Ninety Six, South Carolina, the company assists in commercialization and product development for emerging companies in the United States and around the world.

MetaMorphix safe harbor: 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 business 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.