

April 26, 2016

**Sumitomo Chemical Strengthens Biorational Business  
- Two agreements signed with a U.S. company and an Argentina company -**

Sumitomo Chemical announced today that its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary Valent BioSciences Corporation (VBC) has signed a global licensing agreement with a U.S. based company, LidoChem, and a long-term development and commercialization cooperation agreement with an Argentina based company, Rizobacter, both aiming to strengthen its Biorational business further.

VBC has been waging an energetic drive recently to expand its biorational business in the U.S., opening a fermentation manufacturing facility in 2014 and acquiring Mycorrhizal Applications LLC, a producer of mycorrhizal fungal inoculum, in 2015. Furthermore, it will be building a new research unit as Biorational Research Center in Illinois, U.S.A. In parallel, Sumitomo Chemical has also taken steps forward, reinforcing its global agriculture-related business by integrating its plant protection chemicals business and VBC's biorational business that have been conducted separately. With the global business matrix structure now established, Sumitomo Chemical Group is accelerating research and development activities, aiming to provide unique and innovative solutions for agriculture.

The new technologies that become available under the above two agreements will provide Sumitomo Chemical with a greater opportunity to satisfy market needs more swiftly and properly by capitalizing on the two technological disciplines of health and crop science, i.e. plant protection chemicals and biorationals, which will contribute to meeting the world's growing demand for a secured and stable supply of safer foods.

\* As for some details of the two agreements, please refer to the attached announcements of VBC made on March 24 and March 31, 2016, respectively.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Valent BioSciences Corporation Reaches Global Licensing Agreement with LidoChem, Inc. for New Biocontrol Technology to Protect Against Nematodes**

LIBERTYVILLE, IL, March, 24, 2016 – Valent BioSciences Corporation (VBC) announced today it has reached a global licensing agreement with LidoChem, Inc. for a novel, patented biocontrol technology for use in corn, soybean, and other crops. Based on a unique strain of the beneficial soil microorganism *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, it will be developed by VBC in collaboration with Valent U.S.A. Corporation. VBC and Valent U.S.A. are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Sumitomo Chemical, a global leader of conventional plant protection and biorational technologies for agriculture.

The product will be marketed and sold initially as a biological nematode seed treatment for the U.S. market by Valent U.S.A. The U.S. EPA registration is expected this year. VBC plans to focus future research and development on new formulations and expansions of the technology into other applications, crops, and regions.

"This agreement brings another important and innovative biorational technology to our growing platform for soil-based innovation," said Ted Melnik, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of VBC. "The unique mode of action of the product brings growers a potent and valuable tool in their battle against soilborne pests."

LidoChem, Inc. Chief Executive Officer Don Pucillo said the agreement with VBC delivers on a key performance goal for the product.

"Strong technologies require strong development and distribution partners," said Pucillo. "LidoChem is pleased to have reached an agreement with a trusted company known around the world for delivering consistent, measureable value to growers through innovative biorational technologies."

Valent U.S.A. Business Unit Director Trey Soud said the LidoChem deal further expands the Valent seed protection solutions available to growers.

"This exciting new technology will be a strong complement to our well-established seed protection portfolio," said Soud. "The addition of this biological strengthens our ability to provide growers with control against nematodes and provide them with complete seed treatment solutions. Longer term, we are looking aggressively at various application methods that can deliver this technology and others more conveniently for growers."

###

**About Valent BioSciences Corporation**



Headquartered in Libertyville, IL, Valent BioSciences is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Chemical and is the worldwide leader in the development, manufacturing and commercialization of biorational products with sales in 95 countries around the world. Valent BioSciences is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company. For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.valentbiosciences.com](http://www.valentbiosciences.com)

#### **About Valent U.S.A. Corporation**

Valent U.S.A. Corporation, headquartered in Walnut Creek, Calif., is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Chemical. Valent U.S.A. develops and markets products in the United States and Canada that protect agricultural crops, enhance crop yields, improve food quality, beautify the environment and safeguard public health. Valent products include a well-known line of quality herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and plant growth regulator products for agricultural, seed protection and professional use. Valent is a leader in marketing and sales of both traditional chemical products and also biorational products developed by its affiliate, Valent BioSciences Corporation. For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.valent.com](http://www.valent.com)

#### **About Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited**

Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, Sumitomo Chemical is one of Japan's leading chemical companies, offering a diverse range of products globally in the fields of petrochemicals, energy and functional materials, IT-related chemicals and materials, health and crop science products, and pharmaceuticals. The company's total consolidated sales for fiscal year 2014 were JPY 2.38 trillion. For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.sumitomo-chem.co.jp/english/](http://www.sumitomo-chem.co.jp/english/).

#### **About LidoChem, Inc.**

LidoChem, Inc., a family-owned business, was established in 1981 and is based in Hazlet, New Jersey. LidoChem, Inc., has two divisions: the Industrial Division, which distributes chemical raw materials; and the Performance Nutrition Division, established in 1999 to develop, market and distribute environmentally friendly and effective crop, turf & ornamental fertility and disease control products and programs. Today Performance Nutrition patented product lines include: NutriSmart<sup>®</sup> biological eco-fertilizer; KaPre<sup>®</sup> soil amendments and fertilizer additives; Argosy<sup>™</sup> patented adjuvants; Prudent<sup>®</sup> patented phosphite fertilizers; Vibrant<sup>®</sup> patented foliar fertilizers; Pennamin<sup>®</sup> water-soluble amino acid chelated micronutrients; and others. Performance Nutrition's proprietary Nutrol<sup>®</sup> is a fungicide, tank buffer & water-soluble fertilizer. Find LidoChem on Facebook, Twitter, and at [www.performancefertilizers.com](http://www.performancefertilizers.com).

#### **Media Contact:**

Rick Melnick  
Valent BioSciences Corporation  
847-968-4750  
Email: [rick.melnick@valentbiosciences.com](mailto:rick.melnick@valentbiosciences.com)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Valent BioSciences Corporation and Rizobacter Enter R&D Cooperation Agreement for Biorationals**

LIBERTYVILLE, IL and PERGAMINO, ARGENTINA, March, 31, 2016 – Valent BioSciences Corporation (VBC) announced today it has signed a long-term cooperation agreement with Rizobacter for R&D collaboration in the BioRational Rhizosphere space – initially for the NAFTA region. The alliance will further accelerate VBC's development and commercialization of new microbial products for the root zone as part of its expanding seed and soil strategy. Driving the strategic partnership is the increasing need to accelerate the research and development of sustainable agriculture solutions to feed a growing world population.

VBC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Chemical and a global leader in developing and marketing biorational technologies for agriculture, forestry, and public health. The company's recent focus in the soil space has been the development of formulation and application technology for proprietary strains of mycorrhizal fungi. Rizobacter is a global leader in microbiological solutions for seed treatment with recent innovations pertaining to microbial nitrogen management as well as biocontrol of several important plant diseases. Both companies boast renowned expertise in industrial fermentation and formulation science for microbial products.

"This collaboration with Rizobacter reinforces our ongoing commitment to bring cutting-edge microbial technologies into our industry-leading biorational product line," said Ted Melnik, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of VBC. "It is an alliance that brings together some of the most gifted and experienced minds in our industry along with two robust pipelines with tremendous potential for developing complementary technologies that will bring value to our customers."

It is envisioned that R&D as well as industrial scale fermentation will be conducted both in Argentina and the US. Beyond working collaboratively to develop the next generation of rhizosphere products, the strategic partnership expects to develop a variety of technologies and know-how that will advance the overall understanding of interactions in the rhizosphere. Valent U.S.A. will serve as the commercialization partner in this collaboration for NAFTA. A release outlining details of that partnership is expected from Valent USA in the near future.

"We are proud to have the opportunity to work with VBC, and partner on this strategic project. We are committed to the shared mission of developing new technology, and to invest in research in order to provide better solutions to global farmers. Entering into this



strategic partnership represents a significant step towards our goal of expanding our product portfolios worldwide" said Ricardo Yapur, CEO of Rizobacter.

The collaboration comes one year after VBC's acquisition of Mycorrhizal Applications. VBC and other affiliates of parent Sumitomo Chemical are closely aligning development of biorationals and conventionals to further strengthen their global plant protection and enhancement businesses.

###

#### **About Valent BioSciences Corporation**

Headquartered in Libertyville, IL, Valent BioSciences is a subsidiary of Sumitomo Chemical and is the worldwide leader in the development, manufacturing and commercialization of biorational products with sales in 95 countries around the world. Valent BioSciences is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company. For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.valentbiosciences.com](http://www.valentbiosciences.com)

#### **About Rizobacter**

Headquartered in Pergamino, Argentina, Rizobacter is a leading company in the development, manufacturing and commercialization of microbiological products applied to agriculture. Rizobacter is delivering state of the art technologies in 27 Countries. This partnership will contribute new products to the company's ambitious global expansion plan. Rizobacter is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company. For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.rizobacter.com](http://www.rizobacter.com)

#### **About Valent U.S.A. Corporation**

Valent U.S.A. Corporation, headquartered in Walnut Creek, Calif., is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Chemical. Valent U.S.A. develops and markets products in the United States and Canada that protect agricultural crops, enhance crop yields, improve food quality, beautify the environment and safeguard public health. Valent products include a well-known line of quality herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and plant growth regulator products for agricultural, seed protection and professional use. Valent is a leader in marketing and sales of both traditional chemical products and also biorational products developed by its affiliate, Valent BioSciences Corporation. For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.valent.com](http://www.valent.com)

#### **About Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited**

Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, Sumitomo Chemical is one of Japan's leading chemical companies, offering a diverse range of products globally in the fields of petrochemicals, energy and functional materials, IT-related chemicals and materials, health and crop science products, and pharmaceuticals. The company's consolidated net sales for fiscal year 2014 were JPY 2.38 trillion. For additional information, visit the company's website at [www.sumitomo-chem.co.jp/english/](http://www.sumitomo-chem.co.jp/english/).



**Media Contact:**

Valent BioSciences Corporation  
Rick Melnick  
847-968-4750  
Email: [rick.melnick@valentbiosciences.com](mailto:rick.melnick@valentbiosciences.com)

Rizobacter  
María Bulla  
+542477409400 Ext 117  
Email: [mbulla@rizobacter.com](mailto:mbulla@rizobacter.com)