

Influenza or COVID-19? Reliable diagnosis in 75 minutes with new multiplex assay from Abacus Diagnostica

Abacus Diagnostica is a small Finnish company developing and manufacturing assays and devices for rapid molecular diagnostics. Since the beginning of COVID-19 outbreak the company has worked decisively on the development of SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics. In July 2020, their SARS-CoV-2 assay for the GenomEra CDX system received the CE IVD approval for the European market. The results from the PCR-based COVID-19 test are available within 75 minutes. Because of the ease and rapidity of the system, many hospitals are using the assay for urgent samples such as testing the hospital personnel.

- Thanks to our committed and competent team, we succeeded to develop and launch the new COVID-19 assay within a few months, and then increased our production capacity to meet the massive demand. Despite the global crisis and scarcity of some supply materials, we have managed to keep our production schedules and the reliability of delivery, says Mr. Erno Sundberg, the CEO of Abacus Diagnostica.

In addition to the COVID-19 assay, the company has been working on a four-in-one test kit for detecting influenza A, influenza B, RSV and SARS-CoV-2. The seasonal variation of both influenzas and RSV is evident (Figure 1). Every year these common viruses cause humane, social and economic burden for the people and the communities. In the Northern hemisphere, the flu season is approaching now on top of the COVID-19 pandemic. The health care system and clinical laboratories are already working on full capacity because of COVID-19, and that is a concern to Mr. Sundberg:

- The COVID-19 testing is essential to manage and control the pandemic. When everyone is focused on COVID-19, there is a risk of delays on the diagnosis and treatment of other infections. It would benefit the patients and save the resources of the health care system to test more than one pathogen at a time. The flu season awaits in the shade of COVID-19 outbreak, and our new assay will help to bring it on sight as soon as it sets off.

Mr. Sundberg is confident with the company's plans to seek the CE IVD approval for the multiplexed assay detecting influenzas, RSV and SARS-CoV-2. The time frame is set by the approaching flu season. Abacus Diagnostica is aiming for the market launch with well available, CE IVD approved four-in-one assay in November, in a good time before the flu season begins.

About the Company: Abacus Diagnostica is a university spin-off company founded in 2004 in Turku, Finland. The company is specialized in rapid molecular diagnostics providing cost-effective and easy-to-use products to enable reliable molecular diagnostics also in resource and capability limited settings. Abacus Diagnostica is ISO 13485 certified and holds a strong IPR position covering the key features of the GenomEra® technology. The research, development and production of the assays, software and devices takes place in Turku Science Park, which is one of the biggest and oldest science parks in Finland.

About the Technology: The GenomEra CDX system received CE approval in 2010. The system consists of single-use disposable test chips, a measuring device, and software to interpret the test results. The highly simplified test chips are the core of Abacus Diagnostica’s technology and products. The GenomEra CDX system has proven to be one of the fastest, easiest-to-use and the most cost-effective automated solution for molecular diagnostics of infectious diseases. GenomEra is also suitable for small to mid-size customers without any prior experience in molecular diagnostics.

Additional information: <https://www.abacusdiagnostica.com>

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FIGURE 1

