SenzaGen signs new customer – entry into the pharmaceutical industry

In line with its strategy, SenzaGen has signed a strategic contract with a major international pharmaceutical company. The agreement opens up a whole new market for GARD, which previously has been used primarily for testing in the cosmetics industry. This means that SenzaGen's test GARD will be used for the testing of drug candidates in early development.

Based at Medicon Village in Lund, SenzaGen develops and implements animal-free allergy tests for chemicals and proteins. SenzaGen's test, GARD (Genomic Allergen Rapid Detection), has been developed over 15 years and measures significantly more parameters than existing tests on the market. This makes GARD a safer and more effective test than other available options.

So far, GARD has primarily been used for testing in the cosmetics industry to detect potential allergens in products, but it is now entering the pharmaceutical industry.

- Since the start, collaborations with pharmaceutical companies have been a major objective for SenzaGen. We see great potential in this market and we are looking forward to learning more about the industry, with ambition to develop and offer GARD to even more customers in the pharmaceutical industry, says Anki Malmborg Hager, CEO SenzaGen

This is the first time that a pharmaceutical customer uses SenzaGen's method. The main advantage of using GARD is that the test is based on genomic technology and is performed *in vitro*.
The tests can be performed in a very early phase of drug development, which helps pharmaceutical companies to develop safer drugs at a faster pace and at a lower cost.

About SenzaGen
SenzaGen provides *in vitro* testing for the cosmetic, chemical and pharmaceutical industries replacing the need for animal testing. The company's unique test GARD is based on research from the Department of Immune Technology at Lund University. SenzaGen is based at Medicon Village in Lund, Sweden and has 10 employees.

About GARD
By analysing 200 and 389 markers, depending on the test, instead of 1-2 markers as competing methods, GARD delivers results with 90 % accuracy. This can be compared to the golden standard, animal tests on mice, that provide only 72 % accuracy. SenzaGen's test also has the ability to measure potency (strength) of a substance and can thus determine the degree to which a substance cause allergy. Existing, competing tests do not achieve the same accuracy and lack the ability to measure the potency of a substance.

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