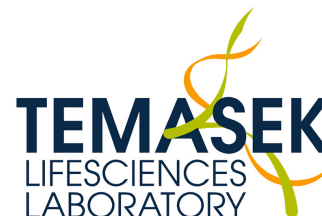


## PRESS RELEASE

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### **GENOMAR ASA AND TEMASEK LIFESCIENCES LABORATORY ANNOUNCE R&D COLLABORATION ON NILE TILAPIA AND ATLANTIC SALMON**

Singapore, 18 March 2004 – The Norwegian company, GenoMar ASA (GenoMar), one of the world's leading life science companies specializing in aquatic species, has signed a long-term research collaboration with Temasek Lifesciences Laboratory (TLL). The research and development work will be focused on the Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). They also intend to pursue further long-term joint R&D on other fish with high economic potentials in the near future.

Nile tilapia, being a herbivorous species, does not compete for scarce marine resources for feed. It is easy to grow in safe sustainable eco-friendly systems. For these reasons, the Nile tilapia is the world's fastest growing fish farming industry with an annual growth exceeding 20%. Due to its mild taste and firm texture, the tilapia fish has become the second most preferred fish in the USA with an annual growth rate exceeding 40% over the last four years. It has been dubbed the aquatic chicken. Last year, world tilapia production exceeded 2 million tonnes.

The President and Founder of GenoMar, Professor Øystein Lie, said “GenoMar believes that a long term collaboration with Asia's leading life science company will secure GenoMar access to the latest state-of-the-art life science technology. Furthermore, we believe that TLL will be a front-runner in life sciences and together we want to set the agenda for sustainable aquaculture and food safety.”

TLL will participate with GenoMar in a QTL (Quantitative Trait Loci) mapping project on their tilapia broodstock. In addition, TLL will also assist GenoMar with genotyping to augment their partnership with salmon breeding operations.

A/Prof Mohan Balasubramanian, Acting Director of TLL said “Molecular biology provides powerful tools that can be effectively applied to the aquaculture industry. We are tremendously pleased to see GenoMar enter a partnership with TLL to leverage on our vast fish molecular biology expertise.”

GenoMar plans to expand their operations in Asia over the next few years. They are currently exploring the possibility of locating their regional headquarters in Singapore.

“The Economic Development Board (EDB) and Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) have been very supportive in this context, making Singapore an easy choice for GenoMar’s expansion plans in the region.” added Professor Lie.

### **About GenoMar ASA**

GenoMar ASA is Norway’s leading and one of the world’s leading life science companies specializing in aquatic species. The company was established in 1996 by its president and founder Professor Øystein Lie.

GenoMar applies marine genomics to enhance margins and to establish sustainable frameworks for the aquaculture industry: “Safe and Sustainable Seaharvest”. Nature’s own tag, the DNA Fingerprint, is used for instant and online pedigree information in breeding programs. GenoMar has also developed a genetic traceability system for verification of origin of seafood. The concept, named GenTrack, can trace seafood from egg to plate or from plate to its origin and it represents the ultimate tool for verification of existing traceability systems, thus enhancing food safety regimes.

The company does not apply transgenic strategies in its genetic improvement regimes, however genetic information is used to accelerate current breeding programs.

### **About Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL)**

Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) was established in August 2002 by the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Temasek Holdings to undertake cutting edge research in molecular biology and genetics in the broad fields of life sciences. Currently, there are 15 research groups working in the areas of cell biology, developmental biology, pathogenesis and bioinformatics. In addition, TLL has training programs for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, as well as students from the universities and junior colleges. More information on TLL is available at [www.tll.org.sg](http://www.tll.org.sg)

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