

# BUSINESSWEEKLY

## Personalised Medicine Gospel Reaches Vatican

Personalised medicines technology from Horizon Discovery division Horizon Diagnostics (HDx) in Cambridge UK can now be distributed in Vatican City as part of a new deal with an Italian partner.

Business Weekly understands that the deal will bring Horizon upfront payments and should trigger six-figure returns on an annual basis. Horizon's agreement with Diatech Pharmacogenetics covers exclusive distribution of molecular reference standards products owned by the Cambridge business in Italy, San Marino and Vatican City.

HDx is a leading provider of research tools to support the development and prescription of personalised medicines. The lack of availability of reliable and renewable sources of reference standards has been a major challenge to molecular laboratories. Even when patient samples are available, variability in DNA extraction and a lack of standardisation have proven to be additional serious sources of error. The availability through Horizon of reliable and renewable genetically defined and thoroughly validated reference materials will provide an industry standard for the development of and quality control of molecular assays, thereby directly improving their accuracy.

Horizon's molecular reference standards include FFPE cell line blocks and purified gDNA. HDx recently launched its first Quantitative Multiplex DNA reference standard, intended for researchers assessing multiple biomarkers in a single assay, using platforms such as next generation sequencing.

Fabio Biondi, Diatech Pharmacogenetics' president, said: "Horizon's molecular reference standards are a valuable addition to our personalised medicine portfolio and we are excited to be able to extend this offering to our customers. "The increased use of molecular reference standards in laboratories around the world has the potential to improve delivery of molecular assays for a range of applications."