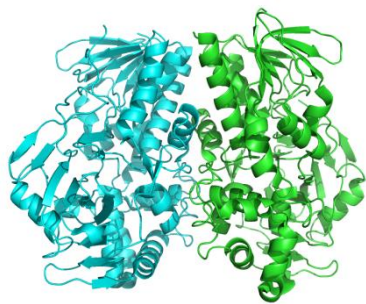


**Bionexgen** *The University of Manchester is leading a £6.5m (€7.8M) European project to develop the next generation of green chemical processes.*



“Developing the Next Generation of Biocatalysts for Industrial Chemical Synthesis - Bionexgen” is the title of an ambitious pan-European research programme that will develop the next generation of biocatalysts to be used for eco-efficient manufacturing processes in the chemical industry. This 3 year European Union FP7 funded project is led by **Professor Nick Turner**, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Biocatalysis (CoEBio3), and aims to replace traditional chemical manufacturing methods with greener biotechnology routes.

The project brings together microbiologists, enzymologists, chemists, engineers and process development scientists to enable industry to use biotechnology and renewable resources to replace fossil fuel derived manufacturing methods. This collaboration by leading European industrial and academic partners has identified a new generation of biocatalysts that, once developed, will lead to economic and environmental improvements in the manufacture of everyday chemicals such as pharmaceuticals and polymers.

Two of the main research packages in the programme will be carried out in the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre. “Amine Synthesis” will be led by Prof. Nick Turner, and “Applications of enzymes to glycoscience and oligosaccharide synthesis” will be led by Prof. Sabine Flitsch. Overall the Bionexgen programme was coordinated by Dr. John Whittall, and is project managed by Dr. Kirk Malone.

There are 17 institutions in the consortium, consisting of university research groups, small and medium sized companies, and BASF, the world’s leading chemical company. The participants are: The University of Manchester, CoEBio3 (United Kingdom); University College London (United Kingdom); Austrian Centre for Industrial Biotechnology (Austria); The Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic); Denmark Technical University (Denmark); The University of Stuttgart (Germany); Leibniz Institute for Plant Biochemistry (Germany); The University of Groningen (Netherlands); Slovak University of Technology (Slovakia); The University of Oviedo (Spain); KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden); CLEA Technologies (Netherlands); EntreChem (Spain); GALAB Laboratories (Germany); LentiKats (Czech Republic); BASF (Germany); Chemical Innovation KTN (United Kingdom).

Professor Nick Turner said: *“I warmly welcome all the partners to the programme and look forward to collaborating with them in this exciting field of interdisciplinary science. The research was devised with the close involvement of industrial partners; this is a great strength of the programme and will ensure real-world application of the green chemical processes developed.”*

**About CoEBio3:** Based in the University of Manchester (and MIB) the CoEBio3 is the UK’s leading Industrial Biotechnology research organisation, dedicated to providing a world-class scientific environment in which the necessary research and development can be carried out to create new biocatalyst-based processes to meet the changing needs of the chemical industry. For more information see <http://www.coebio3.org>



Bionexgen builds on CoEBio3’s previous success in obtaining and managing large EU grants, including BIOTRAINS (€4.4M), AMBIOCAS (€2.5M), GlycoBioM (€5.2M) and EuroGlycoArrays (€4.5M).