

Generic PT scheme for quantitative PCR



Measurements for Biotechnology

LGC is launching a PT scheme to provide the tools for cross-sectoral benchmarking of laboratory performance. This innovative approach is the first DNA-based PT scheme to provide test materials applicable to all sectors, and has been developed as part of the Measurements for Biotechnology (MfB) programme 2004-2007. Information on the scheme, which will operate in accordance with the principles of ILAC Guide 13 and ISO Guide 43 Part 1, may be found on the MfB web site¹

Building on the experience from a previous scheme for qualitative PCR analysis², and in the development of international Q-PCR trials at the CCQM level³, the new PT will encompass DNA extraction from a proprietary generic matrix and Q-PCR quantification of extracted samples. Participants will be provided with synthetic analytes and matrices, together with target-specific reagents for real time PCR quantification. It is envisaged that the scheme will support a range of detection chemistries and platforms.

This new venture will benefit from the extensive experience at LGC in PT provision. The scheme will further benefit from the recent merger of LGC's PT activities with highly respected independent international providers of proficiency testing schemes, Quality Management Limited (QM), and Aquacheck, to create a centre of excellence for proficiency testing.

The new PT is the first universally accessible, cross-sectoral scheme of its kind, and will be launched this year, with the first round scheduled for Sept 06. If you are interested in participating in the scheme please complete the accompanying registration form and return to: dnapt@lgc.co.uk



References

1. http://www.mfbprog.org.uk/themes/theme_project.asp?intThemeID=22&intProjectID=229&intProjectCatID=98
2. Birch et al 2004 Clin Chem 50:1553-1559
3. Presentation of data on CCQM trial P44 at WCBP 2006: <http://www.mfbprog.org.uk/news/newsdocs/430.pdf>

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