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## Press Release

### **Labofarm celebrates the second year of its high-throughput sequencing platform**

*Loudéac (France), 13 May 2019* – “We are thrilled to celebrate the second birthday of our high-throughput sequencing platform, which has already analysed over 2,000 microbiota samples,” announces Dr Pierre-Yves Moalic, head of development at Labofarm.

“Labofarm is the only private diagnostic laboratory in France that offers such a platform for the animal production sector. Most of our sequencing activity is focused on caecal/faecal microbiota testing for animal feed trials in the pigs and poultry sectors.”

The two automated workflow systems (Ion Chef and Ion S5, from ThermoFischer Scientific) were installed in the laboratory in Loudéac, in the spring of 2017. “Apart from the routinely performed microbiota analysis, we are currently preparing the platform for whole-genome sequencing, for the traceability of bacteria within production flows or in the context of food safety”, Moalic explains.

“We also validated the highly sensitive core genome multilocus sequence typing (cgMLST) - a ‘fingerprinting’ technique, which allows sequencing over 50 housekeeping genes in a single run. Virology and parasitology will follow.”

Labofarm also routinely performs single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis for cattle herd books and is considering enlarging the spectrum of analysis to other types of microbiota, e.g. skin (in companion animals), the environment (wet wipes) and soil (pan-genome sequencing)...

Labofarm has a long-standing expertise in molecular biology in animal production. In the 1990s, it was the first diagnostic laboratory to implement PCR as a routine detection assay for animal health in France. It is accredited by the French competent authority for three standard procedures in bacteriology, serology and PCR in animal health.

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1. Labofarm (<https://www.labofarm.com/>) is a privately owned diagnostic laboratory specialised in animal production. It was created in Loudéac (central Brittany) in 1985, and has developed an expertise in molecular biology for diagnostic and monitoring purposes in production animals, including poultry, swine, cattle, marine aquaculture and oyster farming. Labofarm is a subsidiary of Finalab.
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