



London Technology Network  
Ideas into Action

# Accessing unique expertise via LTN Technology Matching

*Biotechnology*



# Biotechnology

Cambridgeshire-based laboratory services company HFL Limited sought unique expertise and equipment in a recent project: detecting “gene doping” in athletes and racehorses. London Technology Network helped them make the right connections at St George’s and Royal Holloway universities.

Doping in sports offers increasing challenges to regulators and scientists – as attempts to illegally enhance the performer are being made at a genetic level. There are concerns that “gene doping” could become an issue in human sports or the horseracing industry, and so drug surveillance company HFL Limited received funding from the World Anti-Doping Agency and the HBLB to find better ways of testing animals for this illegal procedure. Chief Scientist at HFL Phil Teale contacted London Technology Network for assistance in finding research collaborators from London and the South-East’s rich academic base. Phil was put in contact with Dr Gary Coulton, head of St George’s Medical Biomics Centre and a vital LTN contact. Phil explained: “Our research involved a good degree of proteomics and trying to identify particular biomarkers and that’s really where we got involved with Gary. We now have two of our people utilising the Biomics Centre equipment and expertise to try and identify biomarkers deriving from different therapies.” LTN also contacted Professor George Dickson, head of the School of Biological Sciences at Royal Holloway, who had a key contact in his department. “George recognised that we might have some interest in the work that [senior lecturer] Mikhail Soloviev was doing,” Phil said. “So he invited Mikhail along to a meeting, and it turned out that Mikhail was working on biosensor type technologies - which was of direct interest to HFL. Mikhail has got a lot of expertise in developing immuno-assays, so we have a CASE studentship with him, where we’re looking at multiplexing immuno-assays.” So LTN helped HFL make two links to universities, accelerating its R&D and providing access to unique testing facilities.

For more information on LTN and how we can help your business, contact:

**Tim Benzie**, Communications Executive.

Phone **0870 730 8686**, email [t.benzie@ltnetwork.org](mailto:t.benzie@ltnetwork.org),

or visit [www.LTNetwork.org](http://www.LTNetwork.org) and [www.london-irc.org](http://www.london-irc.org)



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