

**Press Release**

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**Belgian company ProDigest establishes UK presence at the London BioScience Innovation Centre**

ProDigest, a Belgian company offering customized gastrointestinal research solutions in the food, functional food and pharmaceutical industries, has established a UK presence at the London BioScience Innovation Centre (LBIC).

ProDigest is a spin-off company from the Laboratory of Microbial Ecology and Technology (LabMET), located at Ghent University, Belgium and was founded in 2008 by Dr Sam Possemiers, Dr. Massimo Marzorati and Dr. Willy Verstraete.

ProDigest's services in gastrointestinal transit, bioavailability and metabolism are based on the application of an extensive *in vitro* technology platform which was developed at LabMET and is based on a dynamic simulation model of the human gastrointestinal tract, called the Simulator of the Human Intestinal Microbial Ecosystem (SHIME).

The company's mission is to provide professional services in gastrointestinal transit, bioavailability and metabolism of food compounds and pharmaceuticals, in relation to their final functionality in the body.

Dr Massimo Marzorati, co-founder of ProDigest, said: "These are exciting times for ProDigest. With an established international client base, a helpful and responsive management team and proximity to Eurostar Services, LBIC is an ideal base for European companies looking to establish a base in the UK. I am sure that our new office at LBIC will be a great opportunity to establish new contacts and long lasting relationships".

Dr Ken Larkin, CEO of LBIC, commented: "I am delighted that ProDigest has decided to establish a UK base of operations within LBIC. ProDigest is a great fit for LBIC and joins an international business community of over 40 companies from Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. I look forward to working with ProDigest and supporting its future expansion".

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### **For further information about ProDigest**

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### **About the London BioScience Innovation Centre (LBIC)**

Owned by the prestigious [Royal Veterinary College](#), LBIC is home to over 40 life science companies in central London, including small start-ups and established UK companies and overseas subsidiaries.

Located close to St Pancras International, Eurostar Services and the site of the Francis Crick Institute, LBIC attracts biotechnology, life science product and diagnostic companies, contract research organisations, medical device companies and service providers.

LBIC clients benefit from shared networking space and meeting rooms as well as close proximity to the various financial services available throughout the Capital. The management team is experienced in building and supporting international biotechnology businesses.

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