



## **French Biotech Company CYTOO Opens U.S. Subsidiary in Framingham, Massachusetts**

### ***Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray joins state and local officials for ribbon-cutting ceremony***

FRAMINGHAM, MA (December 11, 2009)- CYTOO Cell Architects, a French biotechnology company focused on applications in cell based assays, high content analysis and cell screening for life sciences research, announced today that it is expanding its operations to serve researchers in the United States by opening a U.S. subsidiary headquartered in Framingham, Massachusetts. The company officially opened its Framingham site today.

CYTOO Cell Architects' main offices are located in Grenoble, France. Company officials were joined at the ribbon cutting ceremony by Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center President and CEO Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister, Deputy Director and General Counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Business and Technology George Ramirez representing the Massachusetts Office of International Trade & Investment, MassBio Economic Development Director Peter Abair, and other state and local officials.

“Our Life Sciences Initiative has proven successful in attracting both national and international life science companies, like CYTOO, to consider locating and creating jobs in Massachusetts,” said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. “We enthusiastically welcome CYTOO to Framingham and to the diverse group of pioneering companies that have helped make the Commonwealth into a global leader in the life sciences industry.”

“Our decision to locate CYTOO’s global marketing and North American subsidiary operations in Massachusetts was driven by the Commonwealth’s demonstrated commitment to attracting and supporting the life sciences,” said Bill Sharp, President and CEO, CYTOO, Inc. “Along with the fact that Massachusetts is a great place to live, our proximity to world renowned research institutions and a highly qualified pool of both scientific and business resources will enable us to attract and retain the talent required to support our business growth.”

CYTOO provides innovative enabling technologies and products for high content cell analysis. CYTOOchips™ streamline cellular analysis by decreasing cell variability. Each chip offers approximately 20,000 concave geometric micropatterns, which standardize cell position, shape, and internal organization down to cytoskeleton architecture and organelle morphology. Following Beta testing with a number of customer sites around the world, the company plans to make its CYTOOplates™ commercially available in April 2010. With thousands of micropatterns per well, the CYTOOplates™ are ideally suited for high content cell screening applications and will be sold in both 96 and 384 well formats. The company is the first to offer a

technology that normalizes cells, streamlining analysis and speeding up discoveries. By opening a U.S. subsidiary in Massachusetts, the company hopes to better address the worldwide market for cell-based assays in life sciences research.

“We are very excited to open our North American headquarters in Massachusetts, where life sciences and technology have such a strong foothold,” said Alexandra Fuchs, co-CEO and co-Founder, CYTOO SA. “With Bill Sharp in command, we plan to rapidly blend into the local life sciences community and establish business opportunities in the area before developing our activities throughout North America. We are also keen to further strengthen the France – Boston ties that already exist within the area and hope that other companies will follow suit.”

In June of 2008, Governor Patrick signed into law the Massachusetts Life Sciences Initiative, a ten-year, \$1 billion commitment to maintaining and strengthening the life sciences as a major economic engine for the Commonwealth. Conversations with CYTOO about locating in Massachusetts began at the BIO International Convention, held in Atlanta in May, 2009. Company officials cite their meetings with MOITI and the Life Sciences Center, and subsequently with Governor Deval Patrick directly, as influential in their decision to locate in Massachusetts.

CYTOO’s decision to locate in Framingham is part of a growing trend of foreign life sciences companies locating their regional headquarters in Massachusetts. Last week Systagenix Wound Management, a British company, opened its headquarters for the Americas in Quincy, Massachusetts. Biocell Center, an Italian company, recently opened their US headquarters in Medford, Massachusetts. The companies have cited the state’s Life Sciences Initiative as a key factor in their decision to locate here.

“We are proud to welcome CYTOO and its innovative line of technologies to Massachusetts. CYTOO, with its global headquarters in Grenoble, France and its new U.S. subsidiary in Massachusetts, exemplifies and further strengthens the relationship between Massachusetts’ life sciences community and France’s Life Sciences Corridor,” said Ted Carr, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of International Trade & Investment (MOITI). In 2008, MOITI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with France’s Life Science Corridor, the region that is home to CYTOO’s global headquarters.

“CYTOO’s decision to locate in Framingham is a direct return on investment for our state’s presence at the BIO International Convention in Atlanta this past May,” said Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, the quasi-public agency charged with implementing the state’s Life Sciences Initiative. “Massachusetts is a great place to do business for life sciences companies, both international and domestic, and we welcome CYTOO to the world’s leading life sciences Supercluster.”

“We are pleased to welcome CYTOO to Massachusetts, where they will fit in as a piece of our premiere life sciences cluster, which is growing and building more and more international ties every day,” said Bob Coughlin, President & CEO of MassBio.

“There is no better place for CYTOO to open up the American market for its products than Framingham,” said State Senator Karen Spilka, Senate Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. “As a center of innovation both for the Commonwealth and the United States, MetroWest will provide this forward-thinking and expanding company with the resources it needs in terms of a highly-educated workforce and access to recent graduates from some of the world’s top universities. I am proud that CYTOO has chosen to locate here—it’s a testament to the investment in life sciences we’ve made as a state, as well as the infrastructure improvements in the MetroWest region that I’ve fought so hard for.”

"It is wonderful that CYTOO, an international company on the cutting edge of Life Sciences research, has sought out Framingham for its US headquarters," said State Representative Pam Richardson. "Framingham is already home to a host of Life Sciences companies and I am quite pleased to welcome yet another."

"We're excited to welcome CYTOO Cell Architects into the Framingham community," said State Representative Tom Sannicandro. "I'm proud to support the work CYTOO and other biotech firms do to develop innovative technology that will not only help save lives but will create jobs and improve the quality of life in Massachusetts."

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