

## Press release

# Nucleofection<sup>®</sup> Enters the High Throughput Arena

*amaxa announces the launch of the Nucleofector<sup>®</sup> 96-well Shuttle<sup>™</sup> System for high throughput transfection of primary cells*

**Cologne, Germany, July 18, 2006**

amaxa has launched its new Nucleofector<sup>®</sup> 96-well Shuttle<sup>™</sup> System. The technology addresses researchers who want to deliver DNA or siRNA into cells to elucidate the function of genes.

“Our new 96-well Nucleofector System is a breakthrough in the field of transfection, i.e. the transfer of DNA or siRNA into cells, and a milestone for the company”, says Rainer Christine, CEO and co-founder of amaxa. “Based on our Nucleofector device established in research labs worldwide, we have expanded the technology to 96-well format and have concomitantly adapted it to small volumes and thus low cell numbers. Such a format is of special interest to scientists in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Now they are able to analyze gene functions and thereby identify and validate novel drug targets by performing experiments such as RNAi and cDNA library screens or certain cell-based assays directly in primary cells and in many other difficult-to-transfect cell types. Primary cells freshly isolated from body tissue resemble the situation in the living organism much more closely than standard cancer cell lines do. These cancer cell lines have sometimes been cultured for decades and have undergone many changes. Thus, data obtained with primary cells are much more relevant for medical research. With the Nucleofector technology, researchers can now efficiently transfect these cells even in a high throughput fashion. That’s a big leap towards better and faster drug development.”

Dr. Claudia Merz from pharma company Schering in Berlin confirms: “We were one of the testers in the evaluation phase of the device, and we are impressed by the opportunities it offers. We have promptly ordered a system from the first production run and we look forward to integrating it into our screening platform.”

Rainer Christine is pleased with the substantial interest in this novel technology: “The numerous orders which we have received in advance show that many researchers have been eagerly waiting for the possibility to perform their RNAi screens with more meaningful cell types such as primary human T cells. DNA and siRNA can be delivered using the same transfection protocol, which means that RNAi libraries may comprise either siRNA duplexes or shRNA-expressing DNA plasmids. Libraries may also be pre-plated and stored in our disposable Nucleocuvette<sup>™</sup> modules. These cuvette arrays can be individually combined to yield a 96-well plate. Furthermore, the electrodes are not metal but made of electrically conductive plastic – just one of the many innovations in this new technology.”

Transfection of cells, i.e. the transfer of DNA or siRNA into these cells, is a key technique in cell biology. With this method, genes can be added or specifically knocked down in order to study their functions in the cell. The Nucleofector technology developed by amaxa enables efficient and reproducible transfer of nucleic acids into cells so far considered difficult or even impossible to transfect. Especially primary cells fall into that category, but also many cell lines. Primary cells are freshly isolated from body tissue and thus – unlike many standard cell lines that have often been cultured for decades and meanwhile even might significantly differ from their origin – primary cells are unchanged, closely resemble the in-vivo situation, and are therefore of particular relevance for medical research purposes. Now enabling transfection of these medically relevant cells, the Nucleofector technology opens up novel possibilities for applications in academia as well as in pharma and biotech industries.

**About amaxa:**

As a globally active specialist in nucleic acid delivery, amaxa's mission is to significantly enhance the speed and quality of pharmaceutical development and basic research in gene transfer, gene silencing, and gene-based medicine. To this end, amaxa develops and commercializes non-viral gene transfer products and leverages them for industrial and clinical applications. The Nucleofector® technology provides the first efficient non-viral method for transfer of DNA or siRNA not only into the cytoplasm, but also directly into the nucleus of cell lines and primary cells. Based on electroporation, the technology combines novel and unique electrical parameters with cell type-specific reagents. In the segment of primary cell transfection, amaxa is the worldwide market leader. Founded in 1998, amaxa is located in Cologne, Germany, and in Gaithersburg, MD, USA, and currently employs 145 people. The company's research team is one of the largest R&D groups working on non-viral gene transfer. For more information please visit [www.amaxa.com](http://www.amaxa.com).

Contact:

Dr. Oliver Mueller  
Executive Assistant/Public Relations  
amaxa GmbH, Nattermannallee 1,  
50829 Cologne, Germany  
Phone: +49 (0)221-99199-192  
Fax: +49 (0)221-99199-119  
e-mail: [oliver.mueller@amaxa.com](mailto:oliver.mueller@amaxa.com)

For product-related information please contact [scientific.support@amaxa](mailto:scientific.support@amaxa.com)