



## Press release

### **"Technology Fast 50" ranking 2006: amaxa is Germany's strongest growth company in the area of life sciences**

*With turnover growth of 3000% over the last five years, Cologne-based biotech company amaxa ranked 11<sup>th</sup> among Germany's fastest-growing technology companies*

**Cologne, Germany, October 26, 2006**

Yesterday evening at the "Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Award" ceremony in Munich, this year's ranking of Germany's fastest-growing technology companies was released. The ranking is based on turnover growth over the last five years, i.e. from 2001 to 2005. The Cologne-based biotech company amaxa achieved a growth of approximately 3000% over the specified period, resulting in an overall ranking of 11<sup>th</sup> place. This contest is open to German companies with technologies that were developed in house from the areas of communication/networking, internet, computer/peripheral equipment, life sciences, and software. With its growth of 3000%, amaxa is the fastest-growing German life-science company since the "Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Award" was established in Germany.

"This ranking in the 'Technology Fast 50' underscores the company's success during the last years", says Rainer Christine, CEO and co-founder of amaxa. "Dr. Gregor Siebenkotten and I founded amaxa in 1998 after we had won a business plan contest with our idea. Supported by two rounds of venture-capital funding and grants from the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, we developed our technology at such a pace that already by 2001 amaxa was able to launch its first product to the market. Since 2002 we also have an office in the US, where we generate about 50% of our revenues. In 2004 amaxa broke even, and it is one of the few German biotech companies that have managed to become profitable so far. At present, amaxa has grown to 150 employees and will be able to continue its growth in the future."

"Our Technology Fast 50 Award recognizes companies and business figures who combine initiative, innovation and a willingness to take risk with technical authority", explained Dieter Schlereth, Managing Partner for Deloitte's Technology, Media and Telecommunications Division. "The ranking criteria for these growth companies include cumulative percentage revenue growth. Revenue must also have totaled at least € 50,000 in 2001 and € 1,000,000 in 2005."

"In addition to our excellent staff, amaxa's innovative technology is the key to success", Rainer Christine further explains. "Our products are used in academic and industrial research for transferring substrates such as the DNA of isolated genes and so called siRNA into animal or human cells, a process called 'transfection'. With this method, genes can be added or specifically knocked down in order to study their functions in the cell or even the whole organism. The Nucleofector<sup>®</sup> technology developed by amaxa enables efficient transfection

even of freshly isolated body cells, so called primary cells, now allowing researchers for the first time to use these primary cells for their gene transfer experiments. Since primary cells are obtained freshly from body tissue, they give a very authentic picture of the situation in the living organism, and therefore they are a superior model providing more relevant results for medical research. Being able to efficiently transfect primary cells is a big leap towards better and faster drug development.”

**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 utilizes novel and unique electrical parameters – generated by a special Nucleofector® device – and combines them with reagent solutions specifically adapted to the cell type used. 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 150 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).

**About Deloitte Germany:**

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