



glycosylated protein therapeutics

[www.glycoform.co.uk](http://www.glycoform.co.uk)

April 2004.

Glycoform announces the successful closure of a funding round.

Glycoform Ltd announced the successful closure of a funding round which raised £960,000. The Isis College Fund, managed by Quester Capital Management Limited, invested for the first time alongside existing shareholders.

Glycoform is a leader in synthetic glycochemistry and protein glycosylation. The Company applies this technology platform to novel and established therapeutic proteins and to novel glyco-targeted drug delivery systems. The Company's IP arose from the research of Dr Ben Davis and Dr Antony Fairbanks in the Department of Chemistry in Oxford. In 2003 Dr Davis was named as one of the world's 100 Top Young Innovators by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The TR100, chosen by the editors of MIT's *Technology Review* and an elite panel of judges, consists of 100 individuals under 35 whose innovative work in technology has a profound impact on today's world.

Iain Wilcock, Director of Quester, said "The Isis College Fund is delighted to have the opportunity to support another high quality spin out from Oxford. Glycoform is an exciting addition to The Isis College Fund".

Dr Ian Rubin, Glycoform Chief Executive Officer, commented, "Having joined the Company very recently, I am delighted that we have been able to secure funding to take Glycoform to the next stage. We will use some of the funds to migrate the Company to its own, leased laboratory space in Milton Park, Abingdon and to drive forward three therapeutic glycoprotein programmes into early development. Each of these programmes has significant commercial potential and will demonstrate different aspects of the scope of our technology. With this current technology, world-class scientists and now the support of existing and new shareholders, we have the opportunity to become world leaders in this field. "

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## About Glycoform

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Recombinant proteins and antibodies are becoming increasingly important therapeutics for a number of diseases. Many protein therapeutics are glycoproteins – proteins that include complex carbohydrates as part of their chemical structure. The carbohydrate components of glycoproteins affect the functionality of the molecule by involvement in protein folding, assembly and secretion processes. Without the proper shape, the ability of the protein to interact correctly with its receptor is affected, possibly affecting function. Glycosylation may affect solubility and prevent aggregation. Glycosylation also affects the rate of clearance from the bloodstream.

Most therapeutic glycoproteins are produced in such a way that there is little or no control over the glycosylation patterns that result and, as a consequence, most are complex mixtures of different glycoforms with very different biology.

The Company has three core technologies as follows:

1. The Glyco-SeS technology that is a novel method for chemically glycosylating proteins. A priority patent application has been filed.
2. A novel enzyme technology. A priority patent application will be filed.
3. Significant expertise in the field of complex sugar chemistry.

The application of these technologies allows Glycoform to produce pure glycoprotein therapeutics which offer improved efficacy, safety and stability. These single glycoforms will have significant advantages when addressing regulatory requirements.

Currently based in the Department of Chemistry in the University of Oxford, Glycoform is now establishing its own research facilities in Milton Park. Glycoform has selected three lead programmes and anticipates having expressed protein, glycosylated the proteins and generated preliminary data in models by late 2005 and 2006.

The company plans to realize project value through partnering.

## Contact Details

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## About Quester

Quester is one of the UK's leading independent venture capital groups specialising in the provision of finance and management support for growth companies at all stages of their life. Quester's focus is on early stage investments in information and communication technology, healthcare and life science companies. With its strong track record, Quester has earned a reputation as one of the best UK based sources of venture capital. The Quester investment team manages approximately £300 million on behalf of major institutional investors, leading UK universities and five quoted venture capital trusts.