



Bio-Rad to Acquire RainDance Technologies

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This article has been updated from a previous version to correct the number of droplets generated by the RainDance digital PCR system.

NEW YORK (GenomeWeb) – Bio-Rad Laboratories announced today that it has agreed to acquire rival droplet-based PCR systems manufacturer RainDance Technologies for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition is expected to close during the first quarter of 2017.

RainDance's systems include [RainDrop Digital PCR](#), [ThunderStorm](#), and [ThunderBolts](#) Next-Generation Sequencing Enrichment. The RainDance system partitions samples into some 10 million droplets, which is [purportedly](#) 500 times greater than the number generated by the Bio-Rad systems.

The RainDance intellectual property portfolio will extend Bio-Rad's reach into next-generation sequencing applications and strengthen its position in the area of droplet digital PCR, Bio-Rad CEO Norman Schwartz said in a statement.

"We look forward to expanding our offering to provide life science and clinical diagnostics customers with solutions for a wide range of nucleic acid detection applications," Schwartz said.

Droplet-based PCR from both Bio-Rad and RainDance has been [developed](#) for oncology and liquid biopsy applications, viral load monitoring, as well as copy number variation and mosaicism research.

Bio-Rad announced last week the [launch](#) of a single-cell sequencing system co-developed with Illumina.

RainDance also has several partnerships in the clinical space. It signed a multi-year supply [agreement](#) with Myriad Genetics, for example, which [uses](#) 30 in-house RainDance ThunderStorm platforms to set up PCR reactions for target amplification prior to sequencing. RainDance has also [partnered](#) with Pacific Biosciences to co-develop and commercialize solutions for de novo whole-genome assembly.

However, RainDance also [reduced](#) its staff by about 10 percent last year and [pulled](#) a planned initial public offering citing market conditions.

Schwartz had [hinted](#) in a Q3 earnings call in November that it was scoping out M&A possibilities and something might come to pass in the following three to six months. It's most recent major acquisition prior to RainDance was of [GnuBio](#) in 2014 for [\\$110 million](#). At the JP Morgan Healthcare Conference last week Bio-Rad [said](#) it is targeting late 2017 for the launch of a sequencing system developed from the GnuBio

technology and that the system will initially focus specifically on targeted sequencing for the oncology market.

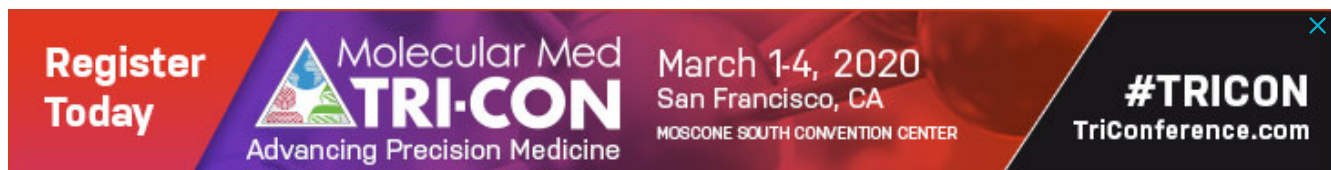
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