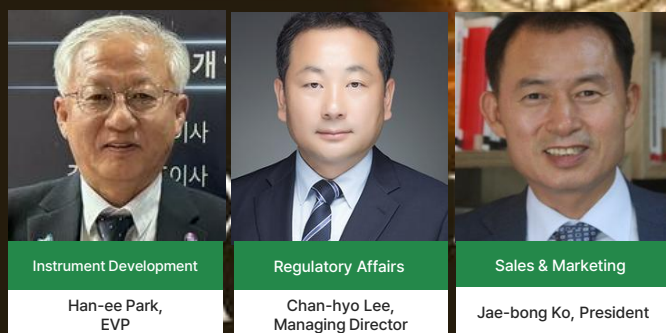


BIONEER News

Prix Galien Korea's Inaugural Year: BIONEER Wins , *ExiStation*™ FA 96 The People Behind It

PRIX GALIEN
KOREA



On September 10, at the inaugural Prix Galien Korea 2026, BIONEER's *ExiStation*™ FA 96 received the Best Medical Technology Award. It is a next-generation, fully automated molecular diagnostic system: simply load the sample tubes, and it handles everything from tube opening and closing to nucleic acid extraction, amplification, and result analysis without human intervention. We asked the three people who led its development where it all began and where it goes next.

— It has been almost a month since the award was announced. How has the atmosphere changed in the field?

Jae-bong Ko The biggest change I have noticed is how customers and partners now view the *ExiStation*™ FA 96. BIONEER's technology was already well known in the industry, but this award gave the *ExiStation*™ FA 96 independent recognition of its technological value and innovation. When we talk with overseas partners, we can now introduce it not as 'equipment made in Korea' but as 'an internationally recognized technology platform.'

"We couldn't win by imitating"

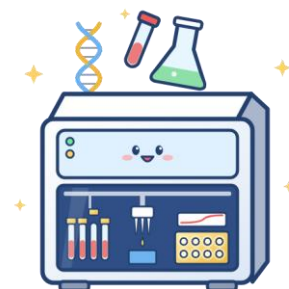
— Let's go back to when development first began. What was the first problem you wanted to solve?

Han-ee Park BIONEER's competitors are global multinationals that have been making molecular diagnostic systems for a long time. Their development infrastructure, product portfolios, and sales organizations are far larger than ours, so we could not compete simply by imitating their features. So we spent a great deal of time digging through patents and gathering data on how customers evaluate existing systems in the market.

The conclusion we reached was 'integration, miniaturization, speed, and convenience.' Bring together in one unit the functions previously split across several single-purpose instruments, while keeping it small, fast, and easy to use. Let users flexibly adjust the number of samples so that it works not only in large testing centers but also in mid-sized hospitals. And build in automatic tube opening/closing and contamination prevention so the system can run even where healthcare infrastructure is limited.

Chan-hyo Lee From the kit side, we felt the same problem. No matter how well a kit performs, in conventional systems people carry out steps such as dispensing samples or mixing reagents with extracted nucleic acids, so results can vary from operator to operator. This lowers the reproducibility of quantitative results and raises the chance of discrepancies due to cross-contamination or pipetting errors. Minimizing human intervention in testing was therefore not just about convenience but about ensuring the accuracy and reliability of results.

Jae-bong Ko That's why we don't simply call the *ExiStation*™ FA 96 a 'PCR instrument.' It is a high-throughput, integrated molecular diagnostic platform that fully automates the entire process, from automatic sample tube opening/closing to nucleic acid extraction, amplification, and result analysis, so that the system itself can function as a complete diagnostic laboratory. Competing head-on with global giants on specifications or price alone is not realistic. We positioned it to make the most of BIONEER's ability to develop both instruments and diagnostic reagents in-house.



A Molecular Diagnostics Lab in a Single Box

— Were there difficult moments in fitting everything from tube opening to result interpretation into one instrument?

Han-ee Park *ExiStation*™ FA 96 was our first fully automated instrument. So we had to develop all the component technologies in-house from scratch, such as the automatic sample tube opener/closer and the automatic real-time PCR tube sealer. Defining the required functions and building the component technologies to realize them one by one involved a lot of trial and error. The instrument we have today is the result of that accumulated trial and error.

— Its footprint is one-third to one-fifth that of existing large platforms, yet it maintains throughput. What's the secret?

Han-ee Park Rather than some grand secret, it was 'subtraction.' From early development, we identified exactly what users truly need and focused on performing those functions as efficiently as possible. We boldly cut unnecessary features. As a result, the instrument got smaller and performance improved.

— Where do the figures of up to 96 tests per run and up to 576 tests in 8 hours come from?

Han-ee Park The instrument has three modules, each holding 32 tubes. That makes 96 in total, the industry-standard format. The first batch takes 2 hours to produce results, and after that a batch is completed every hour. Allowing for sample preparation time, though, we calculated five batches over the remaining six hours. The first batch of 96 plus five batches of 96 each gives 576.

Chan-hyo Lee From the kit perspective, the value of this automated design is most evident in quantitative testing. In quantitative tests that measure viral load in blood, variation in nucleic acid extraction efficiency can translate into variation in results. The *ExiStation*™ FA 96 identifies samples by barcode, then opens and closes tubes, dispenses, extracts, and runs real-time PCR, all within one instrument. On top of that, we applied our proprietary patented PCR technology for highly sensitive RNA detection, so it reliably captures even trace amounts of viral RNA. The improvement in reproducibility is not merely a claim; it was confirmed through precision and reproducibility testing in our analytical performance evaluation.

— Compared with the previous *ExiStation*™ product line, what is the biggest difference?

Han-ee Park The previous *ExiStation*™ was a semi-automated system. Extracting genes from samples and dispensing them into diagnostic kits was automated, but a person then had to transfer them into the *ExiCycler*™ real-time gene amplification instrument. Then Sales & Marketing gave us a clear signal: in developed markets such as Europe, you could no longer enter the major molecular diagnostics market without full automation. That is why we developed the *ExiStation*™ FA 96.

That said, the previous system hasn't disappeared. Hospitals with low sample volumes and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) still use the *ExiStation*™ system. Different markets call for different solutions.



Memories of Protective Suits

— Safety features such as HEPA filters and UV sterilization stand out. Do they reflect the COVID-19 experience?

Han-ee Park Yes. During the pandemic, many healthcare workers performed tests in protective suits in negative-pressure facilities. They were overworked, and as a result testing itself could only be done on a limited scale. So we applied HEPA filters plus UV and ozone sterilization, and made sample tubes open and close automatically inside the instrument, putting operator safety first. We brought the process of people manually opening infectious samples and transferring them by pipette inside the machine.

Chan-hyo Lee I think that is also why the *ExiStation*™ FA 96 is considered a platform for responding to the next pandemic. When a pandemic hits, bottlenecks form at diagnostic sites, and ultimately it comes down to two things: how many tests you can run, and how fast; and whether the people doing the testing are safe. The *ExiStation*™ FA 96 delivers results for up to 94 patient samples within 2 hours and can expand testing capacity without large-scale facility expansion. In March this year, a multiplex respiratory virus diagnostic kit for the *ExiStation*™ FA 96 that detects COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), influenza A and B, and RSV in a single test received CE-IVDR certification.

Jae-bong Ko For the same reason, we view public institutions, including the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), as a strategic market. COVID-19 changed the criteria for evaluating national diagnostic infrastructure. What matters now is not only how efficiently routine testing is done, but how quickly you can respond when an emerging infectious disease breaks out.

ExiStation™ FA 96 is used like this. Day to day, hospitals run routine tests on it, such as HIV, hepatitis B and C viral load tests and respiratory virus tests. Then, when a new infectious disease emerges, all we need to do is quickly develop and ship a diagnostic kit for that pathogen. Since the instrument is already installed on site, they just swap in the kit and start testing right away. In other words, we're not selling a single instrument; we are building a homegrown diagnostic network in advance that can be activated immediately in a crisis.

— Designation as an Innovative Product by the Public Procurement Service must also have been meaningful for the public market.

Jae-bong Ko The biggest benefit is that it lowers the initial entry barriers public institutions face when adopting a new Korean-made medical device. For molecular diagnostic instruments, references from actual clinical and public-sector use are extremely important. So early on, rather than increasing the number of installations, we plan to focus on building success stories at public institutions such as the KDCA and at major university hospitals. As those references accumulate, they become a springboard into private healthcare institutions and overseas markets.



The Highest Hurdle: CE-IVDR

— Three quantitative diagnostic reagents for HIV-1, HBV, and HCV received Class D certification, the highest class under the EU's CE-IVDR. What was most challenging?

Chan-hyo Lee Since 2022, Europe has fully replaced the former IVDD directive with the IVDR. It divides in vitro diagnostic devices into four risk classes, A through D, and significantly tightened requirements so that medium- and high-risk devices must be reviewed by a Notified Body. Tests such as those for HIV or hepatitis B and C viruses, where a misdiagnosis could have a critical impact on public health, fall into the highest class, Class D. They newly require much more rigorous demonstration of clinical validity and of a strict manufacturing quality management system (QMS).

With support from the Korea Medical Device Development Fund (KMDF), the three products completed development and analytical and clinical performance evaluations over about four years, from 2022 to 2025. After that, the Notified Body's technical documentation review alone took about a year. All three products are now certified: the HIV-1 kit in March this year, and the HBV and HCV quantitative kits in July.

— On the business side, what real difference does this certification make?

Jae-bong Ko In the global diagnostics market, regulatory approval is more than a 'license to sell'; it is also a benchmark of quality and reliability. In first discussions with overseas partners, achievements like CE-IVDR serve as key evidence of BIONEER's development, quality, and clinical capabilities, and market-entry discussions can become concrete much more quickly.

Chan-hyo Lee In that respect, the clinical data obtained during the approval process is a major asset. We compared the *ExiStation*™ FA 96 with an established comparator system already used in the market using clinical samples and confirmed equivalence meeting statistical criteria. The results have been presented by laboratory medicine specialists at scientific meetings and published in international peer-reviewed journals.

— How are approvals progressing outside Europe?

Chan-hyo Lee We are using our CE-IVDR documentation to pursue approval from Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), targeting the first half of 2027. We are also pursuing WHO Prequalification (PQ) and listing as a Global Fund procurement product, in order to enter the public procurement markets in low- and middle-income countries led by the Global Fund and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Reagents That Travel Without Refrigeration

— Since low- and middle-income countries have come up, let me ask: how did you achieve lyophilized reagents that can be shipped at room temperature?

Chan-hyo Lee The composition of lyophilized reagents is each manufacturer's know-how, so information is hard to obtain from outside. Starting from generally known compositions, we had to find our own formulation and the lyophilization conditions suited to it. Drawing on BIONEER's accumulated *AccuPower*® manufacturing technology and the scientific literature on lyophilization, we studied many combinations and finally completed a reagent that can be shipped at room temperature.

Jae-bong Ko In the field, this makes a huge difference, because it greatly reduces the burden of refrigerated and frozen transport, the cold chain. In public procurement markets in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America, where cold-chain infrastructure is lacking, it becomes an important competitive advantage that lowers total testing costs.

Han-ee Park It's in the same vein as our decision, when designing the instrument, to build in contamination prevention so it could be used in low-infrastructure settings. The instrument has to run there, and the reagents have to get there safely.



Instrument and Kit Are One

— What is different when one company develops both the instrument and the kits?

Chan-hyo Lee *AccuPower*®, *Dual-HotStart*™ and other core reagent technologies are our own, so we can optimally tune the reaction conditions between instrument and reagents. That is how our lyophilized reagents, which can be shipped at room temperature, came about. That is a major competitive edge in low- and middle-income countries where cold chains are lacking.

Jae-bong Ko Our business model also stems from this integrated approach. As installations and test menus grow, utilization and recurring revenue from dedicated kits rise together in a virtuous cycle. We are targeting domestic and overseas markets simultaneously from the start.



Expanding the Menu

— What is the next test on the menu?

Chan-hyo Lee The *AccuPower*® hrHPV Kit for cervical cancer screening. It detects 14 high-risk HPV types and distinguishes types 16 and 18. We aim for CE-IVDR certification and MFDS approval in 2027. Looking further ahead, we aim to expand into liquid biopsy-based cancer diagnostics.

Jae-bong Ko *ExiStation*™ FA 96's competitiveness depends less on the performance of a single unit than on how broad a range of tests it can offer for what the field needs. We will keep expanding the menu to meet field demand, including sexually transmitted infection and respiratory infection panels. We also plan to manage our key metrics not by installations but by the number of active instruments, test volume per instrument, and dedicated kit sales.



After the Award

— Please tell us what this award means to you.

Han-ee Park For me, it means recognition of all the time spent on trial and error, building component technologies from the ground up.

Chan-hyo Lee Operator safety, diagnostic accuracy, and pandemic readiness. I believe the three things the *ExiStation*™ FA 96 has pursued have been recognized.

Jae-bong Ko As the person responsible for the business, I don't see this award as just a trophy. Good technology doesn't necessarily make a good business. For a technology to be recognized in the market, clinical value, product stability, regulatory approval, customer trust, and supply and service must all come together. This award recognizes the efforts of everyone in R&D, manufacturing, quality, RA, clinical, and the business division. Now the business division's job is to turn this technical achievement into real customer use, revenue, and references at home and abroad.

— What do customers in the field most often ask of the development team?

Jae-bong Ko It's clearer than you might think. New technology is nice, but above all, customers want the instrument to run reliably, be easy to use, offer enough of the tests they need, and get a quick response when something goes wrong. Instrument stability, menu breadth, turnaround time, ease of use, and service response: these five factors decide whether it gets chosen and stays in use. So I believe future development must go a step beyond being technology-centric and become 'Market-driven Development,' where the voices of the market and customers are reflected from the earliest stages.

Han-ee Park We in development fully agree. After all, the *ExiStation*™ FA 96 itself came from focusing on what users truly need and cutting the rest.

Chan-hyo Lee In the end, R&D, regulatory, clinical, manufacturing, quality, service, and sales must move as one team. How quickly we can build customer needs into our products is how we will compete with global companies.

ExiStation™ FA 96 at a Glance

Item	Details
Workflow	Automatic tube opening/closing → dispensing → nucleic acid extraction → real-time PCR → result analysis
Throughput	Up to 96 tests per run (incl. controls); first results in ~2 hours, then 1 batch every hour; up to 576 tests in 8 hours
Footprint	About 1/3 to 1/5 of existing large molecular diagnostic platforms
Design	HEPA filter, UV/ozone sterilization, automatic tube opening/closing inside the instrument
Global Certifications	EU certification: HIV-1 (Mar 2026), HBV·HCV (Jul 2026), RV (Mar 2026)
Awards & Achievements	- Best Medical Technology Award, 1st Prix Galien Korea 2026 (Sep 2026) - Public Procurement Service Innovative Product, Bio-Health (Jun 2026) - CE-IVDR for 3 kits (HIV-1, HBV, HCV): selected as a Top 10 Pan-Ministry Project (2023)

Annual Summit
New York 2026

Stop TB Partnership

IRON-qPCR™

BIONEER Chairman Han-oh Park Presents TB and Next-Pandemic Response Strategies at the 'Concordia Summit'



BIONEER Chairman Han-oh Park attended the '2026 Concordia Annual Summit,' held in New York for three days starting on the 21st (local time), where he discussed global tuberculosis response strategies based on molecular diagnostic technology and strategies for preparing for the next pandemic. The Concordia Summit is a public-private partnership forum held every September during the UN General Assembly week.

TB, the Leading Infectious Cause of Death: Rapid Diagnosis Is Key to Stopping Its Spread

On the 22nd, Chairman Park joined the 'Beyond K-Pop' session, co-organized by the Stop TB Partnership, as a panelist to discuss strategies for deploying Korea's next-generation molecular TB diagnostics. He emphasized that "tuberculosis is still the world's leading infectious cause of death" and that "faster diagnosis is needed to stop the spread of drug-resistant TB."

There, Chairman Park introduced IRON-qPCR™, a point-of-care molecular diagnostic instrument developed with support from the RIGHT Foundation (Research Investment for Global Health Technology Foundation), and its dedicated RFIA kit. IRON-qPCR™ can identify up to 40 pathogens in around 40 minutes, even at local healthcare facilities without large laboratories. The RFIA kit simultaneously determines TB infection status and resistance to four major anti-TB drugs in a single test; its multiplex approach supports fast and accurate patient treatment, supporting faster and more accurate treatment decisions. It can also be transported and stored at room temperature, so it can be used in low- and middle-income countries. BIONEER is currently conducting multinational clinical trials in Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe with FIND (the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics) to obtain WHO Prequalification (PQ).

From Rapid Point-of-Care Diagnosis to High-Volume Testing and Therapeutics: A Response System for the Next Pandemic

At the 'Beyond the Stage' roundtable held the same day, he presented the fully automated high-throughput molecular diagnostic system ExiStation™ FA 96 and the siRNA-based SAMiRNA™ therapeutic platform as a response to the next pandemic. Chairman Park said, "To stop the spread of a new infectious disease early, we must quickly identify suspected patients and build, in advance, diagnostic capacity that can handle surging testing demand," adding, "A system in which local healthcare facilities perform rapid on-site diagnosis with IRON-qPCR™ and hub testing institutions perform high-volume testing with ExiStation™ FA 96 will be the diagnostic infrastructure that prepares us for the next pandemic."

Listening to Genes from a Single Drop BIONEER at 'ODC26': Solving Organoid Research's 'Sample Shortage' Problem

EcoQprep™

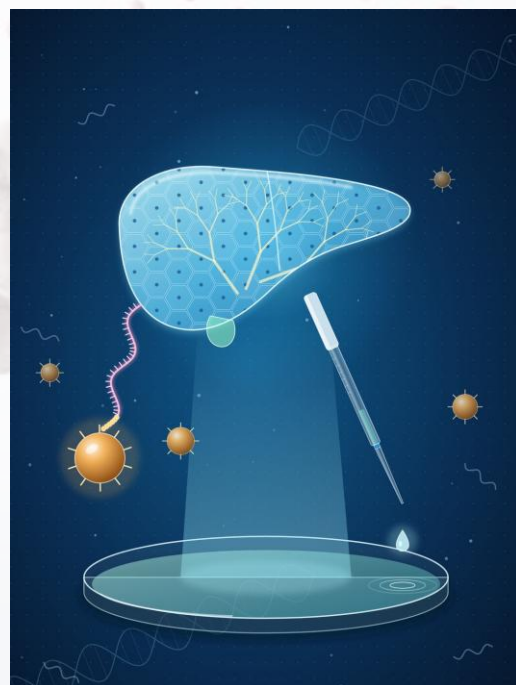


Tiny organ-like structures can be grown in culture dishes. They look like a real liver or intestine, and they can function in similar ways. Scientists call them 'organoids,' or 'mini-organs.' The 'Organoid Developer Conference 2026 (ODC26),' held September 17–18, brought together researchers studying these mini-organs. There, BIONEER presented one solution to a long-standing challenge in organoid research.

Mini-Organs in a Dish: What Makes Them Special?

Organoids are made by growing stem cells in three dimensions. Unlike ordinary cells that grow in a single flat layer in a dish, they grow three-dimensionally and develop structures and functions similar to real organs. That makes it possible to predict more accurately how a drug will act in the human body and why diseases occur, and they are drawing attention as a potential alternative to animal testing.

But putting a drug candidate into a mini-organ doesn't immediately give you an answer. To know whether the drug really worked, you have to look inside the cells. You need to precisely measure whether the activity of the target gene decreased or whether a specific protein changed. This is exactly where BIONEER's long-accumulated PCR technology, gene analysis and nucleic acid purification technologies, and cell-free protein synthesis technology that actually produces AI-designed proteins are needed.



The Challenge of Limited Sample Volume

Organoid research faces one tough reality: they are expensive to grow, so it's hard to obtain enough sample. With so little material to analyze, getting results becomes that much harder.

The nucleic acid extraction kit '*EcoQprep*[™]', which drew the most interest at the exhibition, targets exactly this problem. It isolates and purifies mRNA, the key to gene expression analysis, in detectable amounts even from very small samples. mRNA is like a signal that a gene is "working right now," so reading it reveals what changes a drug has caused in the cell.

Yet mRNA accounts for only 1–5% of the RNA in a cell. Typical RNA purification kits co-purify other types of RNA, so the mRNA you actually need is easily buried among them. This is even more critical in organoid research, where samples are scarce to begin with.

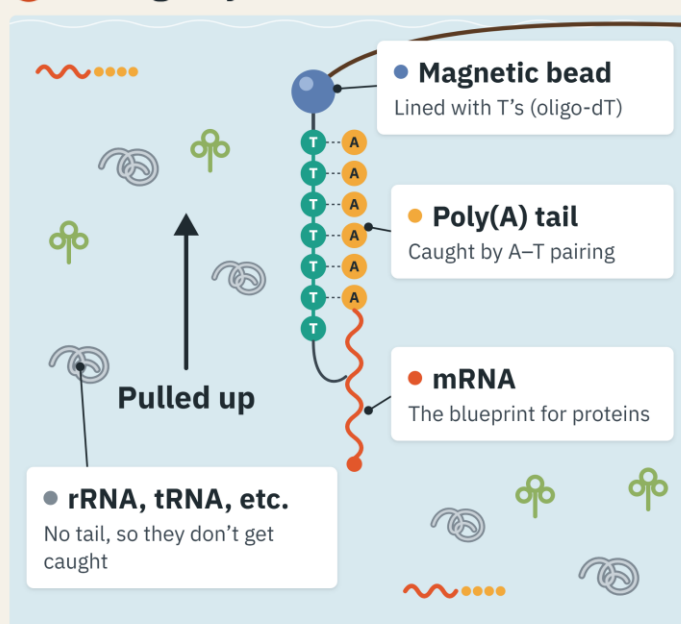
EcoQprep[™] mRNA Kit takes a different path. Mature mRNA has a long tail of adenines (A) at its end, the 'Poly(A) tail.' Like a hook that catches only the target fish, specially treated beads selectively isolate only mRNA and filter out unneeded RNA, so enough mRNA for analysis can be obtained even from small samples.

How it works is also interesting. *EcoQprep*[™] contains plastic-free magnetic particles developed in-house by BIONEER. When these particles bind to nucleic acids, a magnet pulls them out for separation. Because no centrifuge is required, nucleic acids can be separated without electricity, reducing energy use. And because it responds to the magnet immediately instead of waiting for a machine to spin, experiment time is greatly reduced.

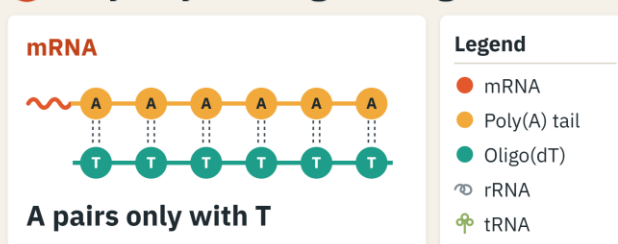
Hooking the Tail: Fishing Out Only mRNA

A "T-hook" that matches the poly(A) tail picks out only mRNA from countless RNAs

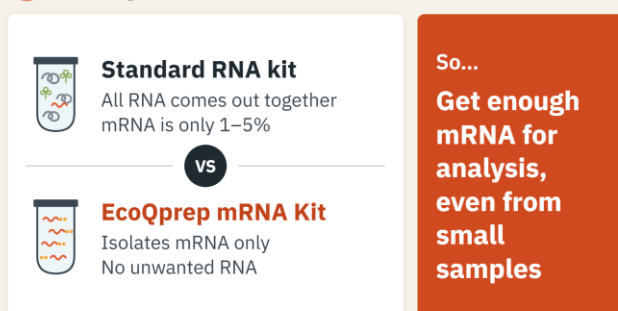
1 Fishing only mRNA out of a sea of RNA



2 Why only mRNA gets caught



3 Compared with a standard kit



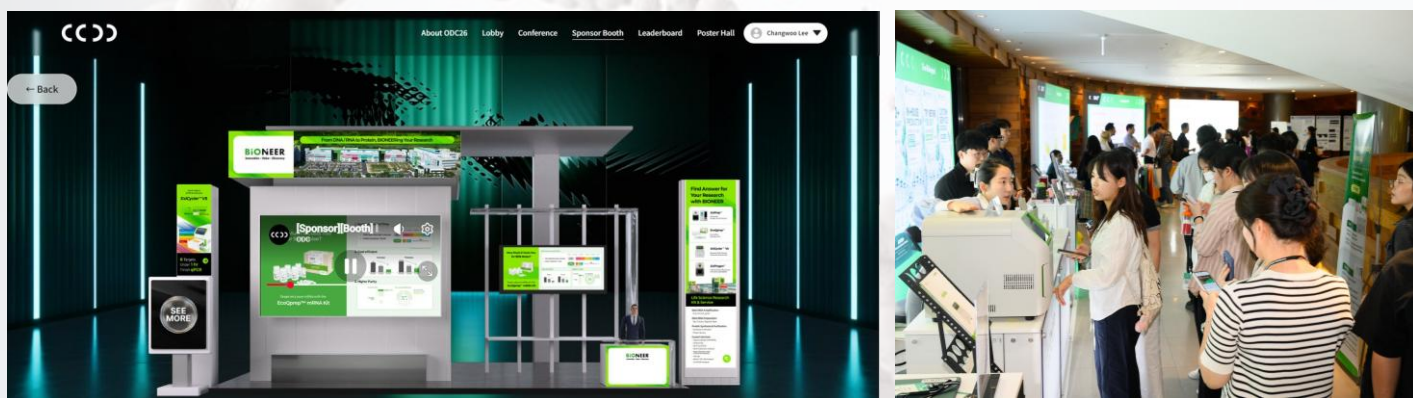
From Sample Preparation to Efficacy Validation, All in One



The samples obtained this way are analyzed with the *AccuPower®* PCR/RT/qPCR Kit, backed by an extensive gene database, and the high-performance real-time qPCR system *ExiCycler™* V5. Researchers can quantify how strongly the target gene was suppressed, allowing drug efficacy to be assessed quantitatively. In effect, BIONEER supports the entire drug development process in one place, from identifying target proteins to sample preparation and efficacy validation.

An instrument that speeds up the starting point of drug development was also introduced. Once a target protein is chosen, research can begin only when you actually have that protein in hand, and the cell-free protein synthesis instrument *ExiProgen™* expresses and purifies the required protein in just 6 hours. This can significantly accelerate the first step of research.

Hands-on Comparison Zone and a Virtual Booth Reaching Global Researchers



▲ (Left) Virtual Booth in operation, (Right) BIONEER's on-site booth

At the BIONEER booth, a hands-on zone featured the *EcoQprep™* Kit, which enables efficient nucleic acid extraction from small samples. Visitors placed the *EcoQprep™* Kit side by side with global competitors' products, compared them directly, and saw for themselves its equal or better extraction performance. Many visitors expressed high satisfaction after trying it, and combined with on-site promotions, on-site orders followed. For overseas visitors unable to attend in person, a Virtual Booth introduced key instruments and kits, including *ExiProgen™*, connecting us with researchers around the world.

For researchers seeking big answers from tiny mini-organs, BIONEER's technology will be a reliable tool.

BIONEER EVP Han-ee Park Receives Prime Minister's Commendation on '2026 Technology Developers' Day'



▲ EVP Han-ee Park (front row, second from left) and fellow Prime Minister's Commendation recipients

On September 7, the nation held its first official ceremony honoring the hard work and passion of technology developers. It was the first commemoration since 'Technology Developers' Day,' long observed through private-sector initiative, was designated a national day of commemoration. At this meaningful event, BIONEER Executive Vice President Han-ee Park received the Prime Minister's Commendation.

Over 29 years devoted to biotechnology research, EVP Park has developed core technologies for production equipment and molecular diagnostic instruments. He was recognized for contributing to the nation's infectious disease response and to the growth of the bio industry. In particular, he has worked to integrate BIONEER's instruments, software, and reagents into a single system, resolving compatibility issues between components and improving diagnostic accuracy. Beyond one researcher's achievement, this award is also national recognition of the efforts of

BIONEER's researchers, who have remained committed to localizing core technologies.

The government has set out the 'Three Mega Projects' to grow semiconductors, physical AI, and AI data centers, and the 'Seven Seed Projects' spanning clean energy, advanced bio, and critical supply chains, as Korea's next growth engines. What ultimately turns this grand blueprint into reality is the technology developers who continue their research day after day. That is why technology developers are called the heart of Korea's growth.

The designation of this national day is both the nation's official recognition of that value and the government's promise to firmly support the bold challenges of technology developers going forward. So that advanced bio can become an even firmer pillar of the nation's future strategy, BIONEER will continue to dedicate itself to developing core technologies and stand at the forefront of that challenge.



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Features & Specs

CosmeRNA Accelerates Push into the US by Upgrading Its Amazon Channel

▲ CosmeRNA Amazon product page

CosmeRNA has built and upgraded a digital commerce funnel, centered on the Americas, that connects the entire consumer journey from product discovery to purchase. The core of this overhaul is moving away from running each channel separately to completing a consistent customer journey of 'Discover – Understand – Buy.'

First, TikTok and Instagram content featuring global influencers intuitively shows real usage scenes and scalp care routines, increasing consumer traffic. ([Example link 1](#), [Example link 2](#), [Example link 3](#))

The Amazon US brand store, where these consumers land, was completely redesigned so visitors can see at a glance the Cosmoprof Awards 2024 grand prize, research published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD), before-and-after clinical results,

and how-to videos. Product detail pages transparently present ingredient properties and scientific evidence, and navigation to and from the brand store was streamlined to boost purchase conversion.

CosmeRNA is strengthening its standing as a 'science-based premium hair and scalp care' brand by turning credible scientific findings into visual content consumers can easily understand. Going forward, it plans to analyze data at each stage, from TikTok inflow to final purchase, to improve channel efficiency, and to extend proven content to its global direct-to-consumer site, boosting both brand awareness and sales growth in the Americas.

To see the newly redesigned CosmeRNA brand store and product page, please visit the link below.

[\(Go to CosmeRNA Brand Store\)](#)

[\(Go to CosmeRNA product page\)](#)



CosmeRNA Targets Eastern Europe's Premium Market with Entry into Poland

CosmeRNA has officially entered Poland, a market of 38 million people and an economic and logistics hub of Eastern Europe. With its solid domestic market and its role as a distribution hub linking the Baltic states and Central and Eastern Europe, Poland serves as a strategic gateway for expanding the brand across Eastern Europe.

Building on products that have completed EU CPNP (European cosmetic product safety) notification, CosmeRNA is establishing a premium position distinct from local low-cost cosmetics. To that end, ahead of consumer sales, it is first targeting professional (B2B) channels such as dermatology clinics and high-end hair salons. The strategy is to build brand trust through organic recommendations from

professionals by holding scientific seminars and sharing clinical data with local dermatologists, trichologists (scalp and hair specialists), and leading salon professionals.

Going forward, it plans to strengthen local key opinion leader (KOL) marketing and, after stabilizing supply to professional clinics and salons, expand into major online and offline premium retail channels to raise mass-market awareness as well.

It also plans to establish a fast delivery system to Poland and neighboring Eastern European countries by linking with its Western European logistics hub. With this entry as a stepping stone, CosmeRNA aims to strengthen its presence in Europe and grow as a global premium hair and scalp care brand.



Consecutive wins in 2 Korean categories (BNRThin, BNR Queen) and 1 Chinese category (BNRThin)

AceBiome's flagship brands BNRThin and BNR Queen continued their run of awards in Korea and overseas at the '2026 Brand of the Year Awards' hosted by the Korea Consumer Forum. In Korea, BNRThin won the grand prize in the diet probiotics category for the fifth consecutive year, and BNR Queen in the menopause probiotics category for the fourth consecutive year. BNRThin also won in China for the second consecutive year, also earning recognition in an overseas consumer survey.

About 770,000 consumers took part in this year's Korean survey and about 2.16 million in the Chinese survey. These consecutive wins at home and abroad reflect the brand awareness and consumer preference AceBiome has built over time. Building on this, AceBiome plans to refine market-specific strategies for its key brands and keep expanding touchpoints with consumers in Korea and overseas.

Both brands share the core ingredient *Lactobacillus gasseri* (L. gasseri) BNR17 while addressing different health needs. BNRThin has grown around body fat and gut health, with cumulative sales surpassing KRW 1 trillion, while BNR Queen, designed for the complex health needs of middle-aged women, is helping expand the portfolio. Based on these product

characteristics, AceBiome has segmented its consumer base and diversified its brand strategies.

In China, it continues to run the brand in line with local consumers' purchasing environment and content consumption habits. BNRThin is currently sold on major e-commerce platforms including Tmall, Douyin, and JD.com, with a focus on providing product information and content suited to local consumers. Using this award as momentum, it plans to further strengthen brand communication through existing distribution channels.

Going forward, AceBiome plans to solidify the market base of its key domestic brands while continually upgrading its distribution and marketing strategies in China. It also plans to apply its experience running brands tailored to each country's consumers to global markets and leverage BNR17 R&D capabilities to expand its product portfolio across health care areas.



AceBiome at 'Vitafoods Asia 2026' Showcasing Room-Temperature BNRThin R and a Diversified Product Portfolio

AceBiome took part in 'Vitafoods Asia 2026,' held September 2–4 in Bangkok, Thailand, presenting its key products and research results on functional ingredients. At the exhibition, it proposed product line-ups that respond to each country's distribution environment and consumer demand, and showcased new functional probiotics being prepared for launch alongside its existing products, setting out a direction for business expansion grounded in R&D achievements.

In particular, it featured 'BNRThin R,' a room-temperature-stable product developed with overseas distribution in mind. It highlighted that the product can be stored and transported without refrigeration, allowing it to adapt to diverse overseas distribution environments. It also exhibited 'BNR Queen' and 'AnaParactin for Joints,' presenting a portfolio spanning women's health and joint and bone health.

The event also highlighted that research on the core ingredient BNR17 is expanding into areas such as gut health and muscle health. AceBiome shared results from a human study in patients with irritable bowel syndrome, preclinical research on muscle health, and a pilot human study in older adults aged 65–74. In the study of older adults in particular,

significant changes were observed in physical performance, lean body mass, lower-body muscle mass, and some body fat-related indicators.

AceBiome also introduced ACE-01, a new probiotic for skin health being prepared for launch, outlining its direction for functional ingredient development and commercialization. Building on its BNR17-centered R&D capabilities, it plans to extend its business into new ingredients and thereby pursue mid- to long-term diversification of its product portfolio.

AceBiome plans to use the industry contacts made at this exhibition to expand its overseas business. In particular, it will broaden the potential for its products in global markets based on the distribution convenience of its room-temperature products and BNR17's research results. It also plans to strengthen its portfolio by linking upcoming new functional probiotics with existing products and to keep discovering new overseas distribution and partnership opportunities.



AceBiome Enters Taiwan Market with First Export of 'BNR17 TS'

On the 29th, AceBiome began its first shipment of 'BNR17 TS,' a product made exclusively for export to Taiwan, expanding its global business. The Taiwan launch is significant because it establishes a new overseas distribution base through a product tailored to local food standards and market characteristics.

BNR17 TS is a 14-stick-pack product developed to meet Taiwanese standards, containing 10 billion CFU of the core ingredient BNR17 probiotic. BNR17 is a patented probiotic strain derived from Korean breast milk and the first individually approved ingredient in Korea recognized for body fat reduction. Its flagship brand BNRTThin has recorded cumulative sales of KRW 1 trillion and 25 million units sold as of 2026. AceBiome is diversifying its overseas business based on the product development experience and brand competitiveness it has built at home and abroad.

Local distribution in Taiwan will be handled by Horng Chang Enterprise Co., Ltd., a company specializing in the import and export of health functional foods and general foods, ahead of the official launch in October. Sales will initially focus on online channels and later expand to offline distribution depending on local market conditions and consumer response. Through this, AceBiome plans to assess

demand in the Taiwanese market and build a foundation for mid- to long-term operations.

This export goes beyond simply expanding sales regions; it is part of a localization strategy that responds to each country's regulations and distribution environment. Building on its business experience in existing overseas markets such as the U.S. and China, AceBiome is expanding its global distribution channels and also broadening touchpoints with consumers at home and abroad through the Korean and English sites of its own online store, BNR Mall. The launch of a Taiwan-exclusive product is expected to help diversify this overseas business strategy.

Going forward, AceBiome plans to strengthen cooperation with its local distribution partner and reflect the sales experience and consumer feedback gained in Taiwan in its subsequent business strategy. While developing products suited to each country's market conditions and diversifying sales channels, it will also continue to pursue entry into global markets, including Southeast Asia.