

# Hot News

## Breaking bonds

Hearing a pin drop is a familiar phrase but a nonsensical idea. But wait, now it's apparently possible to hear the ping of chemical bonds as they break asunder. Cambridge-based Akubio has achieved a major breakthrough in molecular detection by developing acoustic technology that can detect the sounds that molecular bonds make when they break. Its Rupture Event Scanning™ and Resonant Acoustic Profiling™ technologies monitor interactions between, for example, an analyte and a receptor, more sensitively, rapidly and economically than conventional analysers. Detection is electronic using the sort of mass produced quartz resonators used in watches and mobile phones as the core component. Applications include human and veterinary diagnostics, drug discovery, life sciences research, bioterrorism, food testing and environmental monitoring, and in process monitoring of production processes.

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

## Cracking codes

So the human genome has finally been sequenced and we've now known the structure of DNA for 50 years. Champagne moments – but where's the news? How will this knowledge change lives and improve healthcare – and when? Benefits of the genomics revolution are eagerly awaited and the road map for the next 50 years of genetic innovation is only now becoming clearer.

To deliver on personalised and predictive medicine we need not just the reference sequence of the human genome but a comprehensive understanding of the differences between this reference genome and individual genomes - for example, in cancer genomes. But there are major technological hurdles to deliver on this, not least of which are the cost and speed of DNA sequencing. Enter Solexa who is pioneering new technology to enable scientists to deliver on the holy grail of "the \$1000 genome". Having spent several years developing new technology based on single molecule arrays, the Company has announced that it will have a full working prototype by the end of the year. That holy grail is in sight within five years.

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To find out more about these breakthroughs or hot news on any of our other science-based client companies call Caroline Stupnicka on 020 7321 3870 or email [c.stupnicka@northbankcommunications.com](mailto:c.stupnicka@northbankcommunications.com)

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