



Contacts: Pam Marrone, President & CEO
Marrone Organic Innovations, Inc.
530-750-2800
info@marroneorganics.com

Kazuo Iwai, President & CEO
JCS, Inc.
011-81-66920-8890
iwai@g-clean.com

Marrone Organic Innovations to Develop JCS Technology as a Natural Product Biopesticide

DAVIS, Calif. and OSAKA, Japan, Dec. 6, 2007. In an agreement signed with JCS, Inc. of Osaka, Japan, Marrone Organic Innovations (MOI) has obtained the rights to utilize certain JCS patents and toxicology data to develop new biopesticides for conventional and organic farmers.

Marrone Organic Innovations both discovers and in-licenses natural compounds that are developed into effective, safe and environmentally responsible products for weed, pest and plant disease management. The JCS technology obtained by MOI involves a compound for controlling bacteria and molds that is extracted from a specific kind of Asian tree.

JCS has commercialized products, including hand sanitizers, antibacterial hand towels and antifungal eardrops for dogs and cats, from this patented plant extract. Additional products in development include antibacterial washes for reducing or eliminating human pathogens (such as E. coli) on fruits and vegetables and human medicine applications. MOI intends to develop this same plant extract into sprayable products that control various fungal and bacterial diseases of plants and also products that kill weeds.

MOI gains access to years of JCS' research and development of this natural compound, including several patents, practical and stable formulations and extensive toxicology testing that proves its high safety to mammals.

"Having access to JCS technology and toxicology studies will accelerate MOI's product development of new, effective biopesticides for agricultural crops, turf grass and home gardens," said Pam Marrone, MOI's CEO and Founder.

"We are very pleased to provide MOI access to our technology. Finding more uses for this interesting and highly effective natural product means greater economies of scale, and more affordable products for farmers and consumers alike," said Kazuo Iwai, President & CEO of JCS.

Marrone Organic Innovations discovers, develops and markets effective and environmentally responsible products that fill unmet needs for weed, plant disease and pest management. Through a combination of in-licensed technology and its own R&D, MOI develops products that target markets needing better and safer solutions. MOI's own R&D finds naturally occurring microorganisms from unique habitats and develops them into products for controlling insects, weeds, nematodes and plant diseases. MOI has an impressive pipeline of new products from its own inventions and those licensed exclusively from others.
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