

Optibrium Partners With FMC Corporation to Transform Agrochemical Discovery

Optibrium's AI-powered discovery platform Cerella™ chosen by FMC to accelerate its agrochemical discovery pipeline

CAMBRIDGE, UK, and PHILADELPHIA, US, 14 May 2024 – Optibrium, a leading developer of software and AI solutions for drug discovery, has signed a license agreement for its AI-powered discovery platform, Cerella™, with FMC Corporation (FMC), a global leader in crop protection. Under the agreement, FMC will implement Cerella to enhance its agrochemical discovery programmes and accelerate development of its pipeline.

The ability to accurately predict the best compounds to synthesise and which to progress to further studies, based on early experimental data, has the potential to dramatically improve the cost, time, and success rate of small molecule discovery. However, sparse datasets, coupled with the infeasibility of running all relevant experiments on all compounds of interest to determine their properties, make this difficult to achieve.

Part of Optibrium's Augmented Chemistry® suite of AI solutions, Cerella has been proven to accurately 'fill in the gaps' in sparse datasets and predict the best compounds for synthesis and the most valuable experiments to prioritise, improving the return on investment in compound synthesis and testing. Cerella has demonstrated success across a range of applications, catalogued by several peer-reviewed publications and collaborations, including in [agrochemicals](#)¹, [drug discovery](#)², and [flavours and fragrances](#)³. This latest collaboration with FMC further demonstrates Cerella's ability to transform molecular discovery.

FMC's application of Cerella will be enhanced by an expanded license for Optibrium's StarDrop™ software for small molecule design, optimisation and data analysis, and collaborative support from Optibrium's expert scientists.

Dr. Matt Segall, CEO, Optibrium, said: *"We are delighted that our robust AI and software platforms are supporting FMC, a global leader in crop protection, to enhance their discovery. FMC's commitment to improving their processes with cutting-edge AI and machine learning approaches very much aligns with our own mission to revolutionise discovery with innovative scientific solutions, and we look forward to seeing the future impacts of this agreement."*

Dr. Seva Rostovtsev, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, FMC, added: *"Our collaboration with Optibrium marks a pivotal moment in crop protection research. By integrating AI into our R&D efforts, we aim to revolutionise how we develop sustainable solutions for farmers and to enhance global food security."*

For further information on Optibrium or Cerella, please visit <https://optibrium.com/cerella/>, contact info@optibrium.com or call +44 1223 815900.

References

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Notes to Editors:



Dr. Matt Segall, CEO, Optibrium



Dr. Seva Rostovtsev, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, FMC

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About Optibrium

Optibrium develops exceptional software and AI solutions that help scientists advance their discovery projects. Cutting-edge science, backed up by rigorous research, underpins their intuitive software for compound design, optimisation and data analysis. Optibrium's comprehensive in silico platform improves the speed, efficiency, and productivity of the discovery process and supports a worldwide customer base, including leading pharma, biotech, agrochemical and flavouring companies and not-for-profit and academic groups.

Optibrium was founded in 2009 and is headquartered in Cambridge, UK, with a US subsidiary, Optibrium Inc., based in Cambridge MA.

For further information, visit www.optibrium.com.

About FMC Corporation

FMC Corporation is a global agricultural sciences company dedicated to helping growers produce food, feed, fibre and fuel for an expanding world population while adapting to a changing environment. FMC's innovative crop protection solutions – including biologicals, crop nutrition, digital and precision agriculture – enable growers, crop advisers and turf and pest management professionals to address their toughest challenges economically while protecting the environment. With approximately 6,200 employees at more than 100 sites worldwide, FMC is committed to discovering new herbicide, insecticide and fungicide active ingredients, product formulations and pioneering technologies that are consistently better for the planet.

For more information, visit www.fmc.com.