

BIOO SCIENTIFIC

While perusing the meat department at any local grocer, a barrage of questions usually comes to mind – Is the expensive beef really worth it? How do I really know these claims on the label are true? And what do they even mean? Well rest assured, thanks to companies like Bioo Scientific and its product suite of food and feed safety testing kits, the claims made by meat manufacturers which are overseen by the USDA, are in fact, legit.

PHASE III SUCCESS

International sales make up > 50% of Bioo Scientific's revenue; the company exports food and feed safety test kits and life science research products to more than 100 countries across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

AGENCIES

NSF, NIH, FDA, USDA

SNAPSHOT

Founded in 2003, Austin, TX-based Bioo Scientific Corporation is a biotechnology company providing innovative solutions for food and feed safety testing, life science research and next generation sequencing; Winner of 2015 Tibbetts Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

BIOO SCIENTIFIC

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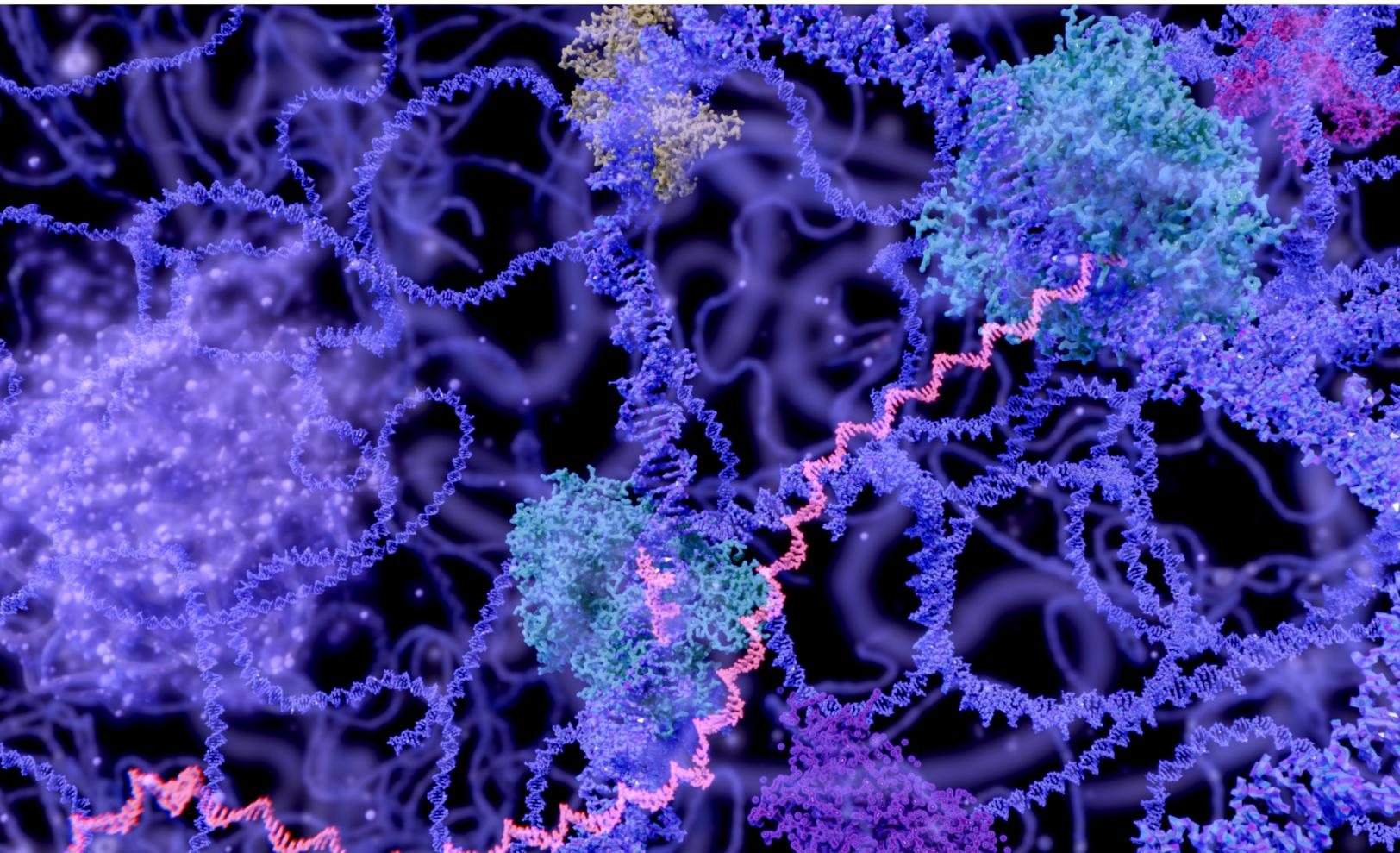
Case in point - Bioo Scientific's MaxSignal® Ractopamine ELISA Test Kit just received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to be used for the verification testing required for the "Never Fed Beta Agonists" Marketing Program.

This tool enables the detection of as little as 0.1 ppb of ractopamine in pork and other meat samples, a concentration well below the 1 ppb minimal required performance limit. The USDA's 'Never Fed Beta Agonists' marketing slogan was developed to help U.S. manufacturers sell to customers that require verification that the meat is derived from animals that were never fed beta-agonists, and is free of beta-agonist residues. Thanks to its technology designed to test the safety of food and feed, USDA has become one of Bioo Scientific's government customers.

But pigeonholing Bioo Scientific into just the food safety sector would be misleading. The Texas-based company has also made a name for itself in the life sciences and next generation sequencing industries. Utilizing several Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), Bioo Scientific has gone on to create a vast global network of distributors and clientele. Bioo Scientific's life sciences product line offers a diverse range of products to facilitate life science and preclinical research. These include innovative in vivo RNAi delivery solutions, toxicology testing assays and kits, which simplify exosome analysis, protein detection and cytokine analysis. Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) is a relatively new and uncharted area for the company, which focuses on the study of genes for areas such as cancer diagnostics. Bioo Scientific provides a complete portfolio of NGS library prep and multiplexing kits designed to increase the sensitivity, flexibility and speed of library prep for the Illumina and Ion Torrent sequencing platforms. Offering kits for Whole Genome Sequencing, Metagenome Analysis, and Gene Expression & Transcriptome Profiling, Bioo Scientific is positioned to make a strong impact in this market.

Bioo Scientific's NGS library prep kits include an extensive line of NEXTflex™ library prep kits, NEXTflex™ barcoded adapters and NEXTprep™ nucleic isolation kits that have been optimized for sample and library preparation, which are critical steps in next generation sequencing. The goal is to achieve robust, high-quality sequencing data and cost effective solutions for next generation sequencing library preparation.

The first of Bioo Scientific's SBIR awards came in September of 2007, just four years after the company was founded. At the time, Bioo Scientific was renting out about 5,000 sq feet of facilities in Austin, Texas. The SBIR grant was used to study the peptides and conglomerates that can be utilized for immunizations for antibody production. Subsequent grants were awarded from NSF to evolve the company's life science products and delivery of small RNA molecules. Bioo Scientific credits the SBIR program with allowing the company to hire a steady stream of talent from the Texas area. Today, Bioo Scientific occupies a 50,000 square foot facility and all research, development, and manufacturing is done in-house, in Austin, Texas.



In its life sciences division, Bioo Scientific offers a number of kits designed to simplify messenger RNA (mRNA) analysis including the ALL-TAIL™ Kit for extreme 3' Rapid Amplification of cDNA Ends (RACE). RACE is a protocol for amplifying nucleic acid sequences from a messenger RNA template between a defined internal site and unknown sequences at either end of the mRNA. 3' RACE primes off of the poly(A) tail found in most mRNA for amplification.

“The SBIR program has been critical for Bioo Scientific because the funding has allowed Bioo Scientific to hire people and following the completion of the SBIR we have continued to leverage the employees' expertise,” explains Lance P. Ford, PhD, VP of Research and Business Development, who has been working at Bioo Scientific since March of 2007. “Bioo Scientific's employees are extremely educated, most from local Universities, and after developing technology and products under the SBIR – many employees have gone on to develop new products, new groups and new divisions of their own within the company.”

Bioo Scientific has been involved in training programs with Austin Community College, the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M and most recently has hosted training for the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) in association with the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD) center. Pertaining specifically to the NSF Phase II and Phase IIB grant, Bioo Scientific has trained several student interns, many of whom joined Bioo Scientific as full time employees working on the grant product during this period.