# Revolutionizing Nucleic Acid Synthesis with Engineered Enzymes

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# ECO Synthesis<sup>™</sup> Platform: Positioned to Deliver in RNAi Market

### **RNAi Demand is Coming**



Chemical synthesis (phosphoramidite chemistry) alone cannot meet projected future wave of demand for RNAi therapeutics

Customers are asking us for a scalable, more sustainable enzymatic solution to complement chemical synthesis

1 kg of siRNA requires ~ 1000 kg of MeCN (BioSpring)

PMI per nucleotide added ~200 kg/kg (Org. Proc. Dev, 2021, 86, 1, 49-61)



Codexis positioned to deliver based on 20-year history of enzyme engineering and directly relevant Pharmaceutical Manufacturing commercial expertise



### Codexis ECO Synthesis<sup>™</sup> Technology



#### Enzyme Catalyzed Oligonucleotide Synthesis

#### Core process:

Oligonucleotide synthesis by iterative, single nucleotide extension

- **Extend:** Controlled, enzymatic addition of modified, 3'-phosphate blocked ribonucleotides
- Deblock: Enzymatic cleavage of 3'-phosphate blocking group & excess ribonucleotides

... Repeat

#### Supply processes:

- Enzyme cascade for synthesis of modified, 3'phosphate blocked ribonucleotides (NQPs)
- Enzymatic synthesis of starter oligonucleotide

### Codexis ECO Synthesis<sup>™</sup> Technology - Key Platform Traits



#### Enzyme Performance

- High incorporation efficiency
- Robustness & manufacturability

#### Scalable & Economical Manufacturing

- High volumetric productivity
  - "Oligo in solution, enzyme immobilized"

ODFX

- Controlled addition of monomers
  - Low impurity production
- Smaller infrastructure/facilities footprint
- Established reagents supply

Building a "one-pot, two-step" enzyme cascade with engineered kinases



Robustness/Manufacturability - soluble expression & stability

**Productivity** - >98% conversion at millimolar substrate concentration

**Substrate Tolerance** - accepts ribonucleotides with 2' modified sugars & phosphorothioate backbone modifications



Building a "one-pot, two-step" enzyme cascade with engineered kinases



**Step 1**:  $N \rightarrow NTP$  conversion via three consecutive phosphorylation steps, using three kinases



Percent conversion for individual nucleosides to the corresponding NTPs

Building a "one-pot, two-step" enzyme cascade with engineered kinases



**Step 1**:  $N \rightarrow NTP$  conversion via three consecutive phosphorylation steps, using three kinases

#### Status: NTP Forming Cascade

- Full base promiscuity & emerging activity for 2'-modified nucleosides
- Operational at process-relevant substrate concentration
- Engineering on track to deliver full base and 2'-modification promiscuity for NTP formation



Building a "one-pot, two-step" enzyme cascade with engineered kinases



**Step 2**: NTP $\rightarrow$ NQP percent conversion with current 3'-O kinase



Percent conversion for individual NTPs to the corresponding NQPs

Building a "one-pot, two-step" enzyme cascade with engineered kinases



**Step 2**: NTP $\rightarrow$ NQP percent conversion with current 3'-O kinase

#### Status: 3'-O-kinase engineering

- Engineering challenge as desired activity is non-natural (& potentially cytotoxic to expression host)
- Break through from initial strict A selectivity
- Ongoing engineering of 3'O-kinase starting to deliver activity on 2'-modification for NQP formation



# Terminal Deoxynucleotidyl Transferase (TdT)

A high engineered enzyme for catalyzing the extension reaction



Targeted Key Performance Indicators

**Robustness/Manufacturability** - soluble expression & stability

**Productivity** - >99% conversion at millimolar substrate concentration

**Substrate Tolerance** - accepts ribonucleotides with 2'and 3'-modifications & backbone phosphorothioate modifications

**Promiscuity** – minimal oligonucleotide sequence bias

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# Engineering Terminal Deoxynucleotidyl Transferase (TdT)

#### Progressive performance improvements in oligonucleotide synthesis

3'-Terminus		Starting	Iterative Rounds of Evolution						
Sequence	NQP	TdT							
AmC*mA*mG	mATP-3P	1	1	1	15	35	32	34	46
mAmAmAfG		2	2	2	2	2	3	4	58
mAmAfGmA		0	0	0	1	9	65	77	73
mAfGmUfG		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
•••									
fGmUfGmU	mUTP-3P	0	0	0	1	31	48	67	68
mUfCmUfC		0	0	0	0	2	1	5	48
mUfCmAmU		0	0	0	3	55	35	56	78
fCmAmUmC		0	0	0	1	12	72	75	75
•••									
mCmUmUmA	fATP-3P	0	0	0	2	10	76	65	68
mAmAmA(MOE)A		1	1	2	2	2	14	39	73
•••		-							
mCmCmU*mU	mCTP-3P	0	0	0	2	9	47	66	68
	*mUTP-3P	0	0	0	0	1	33	54	69
	mGTP-3P	0	0	0	1	15	50	72	75
•••									
*fA*fAfGmA	mCTP-3P	0	0	0	35	34	13	35	44
	*mUTP-3P	0	0	0	2	8	2	19	32
	mGTP-3P	0	0	0	35	41	20	42	52

- One of the most complex evolution projects undertaken by Codexis to date
- Enabling synthesis of fully modified RNA oligonucleotides (2'-OMe, 2'-F, Phosphorothioate)

September 2023



Increased % incorporation efficiency

# Engineering Terminal Deoxynucleotidyl Transferase (TdT)

Progressive performance improvements in oligonucleotide synthesis



Rounds of TdT Evolution

- Incorporation efficiency (N+1) of each NQP measured with 5-8 fully modified oligonucleotide substrates
- Included oligo modifications : 2'-OMe, 2'-F, Phosphorothioate)
- Current process conditions:
- [oligo] = mM; [NQP] = 2-fold eq
- Ongoing enzyme engineering & process development

# Engineering Terminal Deoxynucleotidyl Transferase (TdT)

Progressive performance improvements in oligonucleotide synthesis



- Incorporation efficiency (N+1) on each oligonucleotide measured with 5 modified NQPs
- Included NQP modifications : 2'-MeO, 2'-F, Phosphorothioate)
- Current process conditions:
- [oligo] = mM; [NQP] = 2-fold eq
- Ongoing enzyme engineering & process development

# Enzyme Performance: A Highly Engineered TdT

% Incorporation efficiency of N+1 additions over multiple rounds of evolution

- Consistent improvement in oligo promiscuity and acceptance of 2'-modified NQP
- Consistent movement of screening conditions to the desired process relevant targets
- Further engineered to remove remaining biases and increase oligo concentration to > 1 mM on going.
- Next steps, show process relevance



### From Enzyme Engineering to Platform Development



#### Targeted Process Conditions

- Enzymes immobilized & oligos in solution
- Aqueous reaction system
- Substrates at millimolar concentration
- Elevated reaction temperature
- Cycle time per extension/deblocking: hours/NQP
- In-line monitoring of reaction progress

#### Platform performance

 Multiple consecutive cycles of oligonucleotide synthesis to produce a fully modified RNA sequence



### Iterative oligonucleotide synthesis w/ ECO Synthesis<sup>™</sup> platform



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### ECO Synthesis<sup>™</sup> Technology: Controlled addition of monomers

- To our knowledge, the first ever multiple non-templated iterative extensions of an oligo in the solution phase mediated by highly engineered immobilized enzymes
- 6 extensions in batch mode with FAM-labelled oligo with immobilized enzymes
- Next step, demonstration in packed bed immobilized enzymes with solution phase unlabeled oligos in a flow set-up



### ECO Synthesis<sup>™</sup> Technology: A Vision For RNA synthesis

#### Unlocking exciting new possibilities in RNAi therapeutics manufacturing

- Accessing 10 100 kg batch size for oligonucleotide synthesis
- Reduction in organic burden & operational/facility costs
- Mild reaction conditions, elimination of protection groups, quality improvements

#### Codexis' deliverables

- Oligonucleotide synthesis process developed and optimized for product yield and quality
- Enzymatic manufacturing & supply chain for critical reagents (NQPs)
- Robust, high-performance enzymes for core & supply processes of ECO Synthesis<sup>™</sup> platform, leveraging our CodeEvolver<sup>®</sup> enzyme engineering technology



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