

## Press release

### More reliability for organic products: Quavera network keeps growing

**Göttingen, December 7, 2011 — The Quavera Alliance's international network for reliable organic certification is strengthened by welcoming three new certification bodies to its ranks**

The market for organic products keeps growing steadily. The international trade in organic products is also constantly growing, which means new challenges for assuring organic integrity.

*"With the Quavera alliance, we guarantee effective cross-border inspection and communication between the Quavera members operating regionally," says alliance spokesperson Dr. Jochen Neuendorff. "We are pleased to welcome the members who joined in 2011—Agro Bio Test of Poland, BIKO of Austria and CSI of Canada."*

With the three new certification bodies—including for the first time an Eastern European one—the Quavera alliance now has eight members. These local certification bodies inspect and certify agricultural products and foodstuffs in over 25 countries.

The Agro Bio Test certification body, based in Warsaw, originated from the first Polish farmers' association for organic agriculture, EKOLAND. Today, it is Poland's leading certification body.

With the incorporation of the Innsbruck-based BIKO certification body—now the second Austrian certification body in the Quavera network—the Quavera alliance gains a partner with long-standing experience in organic and non-genetically modified foods.

Traditionally, Quavera also has members in the United States and Canada. Thus, it is no surprise that the third new member of the Quavera Alliance—the Center for Systems Integration (CSI)—is based in Ottawa. CSI was recently approved by the European Commission under the framework of Canada's inclusion in the list of equivalent third countries.

*"Quavera's goal is a harmonization of inspection concepts and communication channels," says Franz Horn of Austria's SLK, one of the alliance's founding members. "This is one of the most important tools to be able to detect cross-border fraud cases" he adds.*

Up-to-date information on the Quavera Alliance can be found on its webpage: <http://www.quavera.org>.

#### For further information:

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