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Agilent acquires Avida Biomed to expand into high growth diagnostic markets

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Innovative chemistries enable simultaneous genomic and epigenomic profiling on the same sample, yieldinggreater insights for precision medicine

Agilent Technologies Inc. has announced the acquisition of US-based startup Avida Biomed, an early-stage life sciences company that develops high-performance target enrichment workflows with unique capabilities for clinical researchers utilising next-generation sequencing (NGS) approaches to study cancer.

The acquisition complements Agilent's market-leading SureSelect portfolio and further augments Agilent's strategy to expand into the high-growth clinical research and diagnostics markets. The chemistries and assays from Avida Biomed are compatible with Agilent's automation platforms including Magnis and Bravo, which will facilitate efficient scaling of research experiments and routine sample testing.

Avida Biomed's innovative genomics tools enable simultaneous genomic and DNA methylation profiling from a single sample without compromising sensitivity or specificity. The company's streamlined assay protocol, which also includes library preparation, can be completed in a single shift enabling fast turnaround of assay results. This automatable workflow has been validated for use with various sample types including liquid biopsy, which has some of the most demanding performance specifications.