

MolGen is handling the entire setup of mobile labs for LAMP test centres and supplying the consumables

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MolGen b.v. of Utrecht (NL) will be handling the entire setup of the mobile labs and supplying the consumables for public health authority test centres in cities including Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Utrecht. Agreements have been signed with the Ministry of Health and the research organization TNO. MolGen has been chosen to implement TNO's rapid coronavirus LAMP tests for these test sites.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in March, there has been a demand for rapid and reliable tests in larger numbers. The LAMP technique meets that need; large-scale rollout will lead to shorter throughput times as the protocol for LAMP is significantly shorter than for a PCR test, while offering similar reliability and sensitivity. Another difference with PCR test sites is that the samples are analyzed at the same location as where the specimens are taken. MolGen will be handling the entire setup of the mobile labs and supplying the consumables for health authority test centres in cities including Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht.

"After clinical validation of the test method last October by Amsterdam's public health authority, TNO optimized the test method further and adapted it to make it suitable for use in large numbers of tests, says Peter van Dijken, the managing director of TNO Healthy Living. That upscaling was also validated by Amsterdam's health authority in December. We're pleased that MolGen took the initiative to adapt TNO's LAMP coronavirus test for the large-scale rollout being managed by the Ministry of Health."

"Although the Netherlands recently started a vaccination program, we still expect demand for rapid and reliable coronavirus tests to increase for some time here," adds Maarten de Groot, CEO of MolGen. "We're proud that we're a Dutch company working with TNO to provide faster, reliable testing for people in the Netherlands. Being able to play a part in scaling up test capacity substantially and cutting waiting times is a milestone for MolGen in this COVID era."

The test sites will each have a daily capacity of 2,500 to 5,000 tests.

After the Brains4Corona program had provided the impulse, the LAMP test was developed further for the Ministry of Health by TNO and MolGen. This work was done together with the Amsterdam health authority, the national public health agency RIVM, DSM, LUMC, and UMCG and financial support from health research funding organization ZonMw.

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MolGen is a young, dynamic, and fast-growing company, operating in the molecular biology segment and specializing in technology for purifying DNA/RNA from various materials. Additionally, MolGen sells innovative, total solutions and is continuously developing new products and services to meet the ever-changing demands of the market. MolGen is currently particularly involved in extraction chemistry and equipment for scaling up SARS-CoV-2 test capacity. MolGen's head office is in the Netherlands.

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