



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Health and Consumer Protection
**European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal
Testing (EURL ECVAM)**

EURL ECVAM launches a validation study on *in vitro* methods that identify chemicals with androgenic or anti-androgenic activity

September 2012

The European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL ECVAM) would like to announce its intention to carry out a validation study to assess the reliability and predictive capacity of selected methods suitable for identifying chemicals that exhibit androgenic or anti-androgenic activity *in vitro*. The study will focus on methods based on Androgen Receptor Transactivation Assays (ARTA) which typically rely on genetically engineered cell lines that generate luminescence in response to stimulation of androgenic signalling. The ultimate aim of the study is to propose the ARTA test methods to the OECD Test Guidelines Programme for eventual international regulatory acceptance in the form of a Performance Based Test Guideline. Such validated methods will support the implementation of the EU Community Strategy for Endocrine Disrupters¹ and the OECD Conceptual Framework for the Testing and Assessment of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals².

A central element of this study will be a multi-centre ring trial to generate test data on two candidate methods in at least three independent laboratories. The data will be used primarily to assess within and between laboratory reproducibility of the methods and to determine their ability to accurately discriminate between chemicals that instigate or inhibit androgen receptor mediated transactivation *in vitro* and those that do not. The trial will comprise three main phases, namely, the training of participating laboratories on the methods by EURL ECVAM, the transfer of the assays to the participating laboratories, and, finally, the testing of a set of reference chemicals by the participating laboratories using both methods under blind conditions.

To support this ring trial, **EURL ECVAM has recently launched a Call for Tender for the provision of testing services**. For further information and to submit a tender go to <http://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/callsfortender> (ref. JRC/IPR/2012/I.2/034/OC of 30/08/2012). Deadline for submission of tenders is the 11/10/2012.

¹<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/docum/99706sm.htm>

²<http://www.oecd.org/env/chemicalsafetyandbiosafety/testingofchemicals/oecdconceptualframeworkforthetestingandassessmentofendocrinedisruptingchemicals.htm>