

1. ABOUT BIOCATALYSTS

Biocatalysts are enzymes or microbes that initiate or accelerate chemical reactions. Manufacturers have historically used naturally occurring biocatalysts to produce many goods used in everyday life. However, inherent limitations in naturally occurring biocatalysts have restricted their commercial use. Our proprietary technology platform is able to overcome many of these limitations, allowing us to evolve and optimize biocatalysts to perform specific and desired chemical reactions at commercial scale.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BIOCATALYST-ENABLED MANUFACTURING AND CHEMISTRY-BASED MANUFACTURING

Biocatalyst-enabled manufacturing processes may address a number of the drawbacks of conventional chemistry-based manufacturing. For example, unlike most chemistry-based manufacturing processes, biocatalysts can operate at or near room temperature and pressure, and often use manufacturing equipment that is less complex and expensive to build and operate. Biocatalyst-enabled processes can create products with the same or higher quality as chemistry-based manufacturing processes, while reducing risks associated with extreme manufacturing environments and without generating the high volumes of waste, some of it hazardous to health and the environment, typically associated with conventional chemistry-based manufacturing processes.

In addition, due to concerns about the environment and the scarcity and security of supply of petroleum, there is an increasing interest in using cellulosic biomass as non-petroleum-based feedstocks for a variety of products, including advanced biofuels and other chemicals. To date, conventional chemistry-based manufacturing approaches have not resulted in commercially viable processes for the conversion of cellulosic biomass to biofuels and other products. Biocatalysts have the potential to enable processes for the development of products, such as cellulose-derived biofuels, that cannot currently be manufactured using alternative techniques.

Despite their potentially significant advantages, biocatalysts have not achieved their full potential in industrial applications. Naturally occurring biocatalysts are often not stable enough to be used in industrial settings, where conditions may differ significantly from those in the biocatalysts' natural environments. The activity and productivity of these biocatalysts is often too limited to be cost-effective in commercial scale manufacturing. In addition, the activity of natural biocatalysts is typically inhibited by the end product of the reactions they facilitate. This characteristic of natural biocatalysts, which is referred to as product inhibition, results in limited product yields in industrial settings. Moreover, for certain industrial applications, there are no known naturally occurring biocatalysts that catalyze the desired reaction.

Due to these limitations, other companies and researchers have tried to improve the performance of naturally occurring biocatalysts by directing their evolution through biotechnology techniques such as the random mutation of genes. However, to date, these techniques have had only limited success for a number of reasons. We believe there is a significant opportunity for novel technologies that can address the limitations of other biotechnology techniques and can substantially enhance the performance of biocatalysts in industrial settings.

HOW CODEXIS' TECHNOLOGY IS ABLE TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES OF BIOCATALYST-ENABLED MANUFACTURING

We believe that our proprietary technology platform can transform the industrial application of biocatalysts by improving their commercially relevant characteristics, such as stability, activity, product yield and tolerance to industrial conditions, while reducing product inhibition. In addition, our technology platform allows us to develop and optimize biocatalysts much more rapidly than is currently possible with alternative methods. Perhaps most importantly, we have demonstrated that our technology platform can enable the manufacture of products cost-effectively, at commercial scale and with significantly reduced environmental impact relative to conventional manufacturing processes.

Our proprietary technology platform uses advanced biotechnology methods, bioinformatics and years of accumulated experience and know-how to significantly expedite the process of developing optimized biocatalysts. Key components of our technology platform include gene shuffling, whole genome shuffling, multiplexed gene SOEing, and proprietary bioinformatic software tools that allow us to identify and quantify the potential value of beneficial mutations and avoid detrimental mutations.