



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Commercial Abscisic Acid Product, ProTone SL™, Launched by Valent BioSciences Corporation

LIBERTYVILLE, IL., — December 10, 2009 — Valent BioSciences Corporation today announced that the Chilean registration authorities, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, have approved *ProTone* SL™ Plant Growth Regulator for enhancing color development in red table grapes. This represents the first registration of abscisic acid (S-ABA), a new active ingredient, which has numerous potential crop quality and stress management applications.

This approval comes after several years of successful field-testing of *ProTone* under experimental use programs in Chile, the United States, South Africa, Australia and other countries.

“Through our extensive global research efforts, we have been able to demonstrate that *ProTone* can enhance color and provide harvest flexibility in commercially important red table grape varieties such as Crimson Seedless, Flame Seedless and Red Globe under a variety of growing conditions,” said Johan Pienaar, Global PGR Business Manager for Valent BioSciences.

Chile is known for the production of top-quality table grapes exported to many destinations around the world. Improved coloring of red grapes is an important unmet need for table grape producers in Chile, and Pienaar said that *ProTone* SL not only fits this need but will “raise the bar” for what the industry expects in table grape appearance and quality. He also added that registrations of *ProTone* are expected soon in South Africa, the United States and Australia.

Quality and Crop Stress Management Applications

Mike Donaldson, president and CEO of Valent BioSciences Corporation, said the active ingredient in *ProTone* SL— abscisic acid (S-ABA) — has both quality and stress management applications for many types of agricultural and horticultural crops. Abscisic acid is one of the five classes of plant growth regulators naturally present in plants. In addition to anthocyanin (color) development, S-ABA regulates numerous key processes in plants, including responses to stress conditions, dormancy, maturation, abscission and growth.



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“While this is the first registration for use of S-ABA anywhere in the world, it certainly won’t be the last,” Donaldson said. “We have a robust intellectual property portfolio for this valuable molecule and have been involved in its development for a number of years. We anticipate expanding the number of registrations for *ProTone* and companion S-ABA products in the near future.”

“As the global leader in biorational product development and commercialization, we are committed to the development of plant growth regulators for use in many markets,” Donaldson added.

ProTone SL will be marketed as a 10% soluble liquid formulation for Chilean table grape growers and will be available for the 2009/2010 table grape season.

About Valent BioSciences Corporation

About Valent BioSciences Corporation: Headquartered in Libertyville, IL, Valent BioSciences is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Chemical Company. Valent BioSciences is the worldwide leader in the development, manufacturing and commercialization of biorational products, with sales in 95 countries around the world. Valent BioSciences is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company. For additional information, visit the company’s website at www.valentbiosciences.com.

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