

**AGREEMENT**

**Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program**

This Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement"), made as of the Effective Date, by and between \_\_\_\_\_, ("Selling Company"), a company organized under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, having its principal offices at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ("Buying Company"), a company organized under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, or a national association chartered under the laws of the United States, having its principal offices at \_\_\_\_\_, the above entities being hereinafter referred to as the "Parties".

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, in order for society to appreciate the anticipated potential rewards from emerging technology and biotechnology research, private industry must have access to sufficient financial resources to conduct research and transfer research discoveries into viable commercial products; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 1997, c.334 as amended, the State of New Jersey created the New Jersey Emerging Technology and Biotechnology Financial Assistance Program (the "Program") to provide additional funds to New or Expanding emerging Technology and Biotechnology Companies (as hereinafter defined) by allowing said companies with unused Net Operating Loss ("NOL") Carryover and/or Unused Research and Development ("R & D") Tax Credits to surrender those tax benefits for use by other corporation business taxpayers in exchange for private financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Taxation has established the amount of tax benefits that Selling Company can transfer (sell) over State Fiscal Year \_\_\_\_\_ to be \$\_\_\_\_\_ (final allocation of tax benefits or total authorized); of which the Seller chooses to surrender \$\_\_\_\_\_ ("Surrendered Tax Benefits" or grand total benefit sold) to the Buyer.

NOW, therefore, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants made herein, the Parties agree as follows:

## ARTICLE I

### **1.01 Definitions.**

**“Affiliate”** means an entity that directly or indirectly controls, is under common control with, or is controlled by the Selling Company. Control exists in all cases in which the entity is a member of a controlled group of corporations as defined pursuant to Section 1563 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, 26 U.S.C. § 1563 or the entity is an organization in a group of organizations under common control as defined in Section 414(b) or (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, 26 U.S.C. § 414.

**“Affiliated Business”** means a taxpayer receiving the benefits for which the same entity directly or indirectly owns or controls 5% or more of the voting rights of any kind or 5% or more of the value of all classes of both the taxpayer and the corporation surrendering the benefits.

**“Allowable Expenditures”** means costs incurred in connection with the operation of the new or expanding emerging technology or biotechnology business in the State, including, but not limited to, the expenses of fixed assets, such as the construction, acquisition and development of real estate, materials, start-up, tenant fit-out, working capital, salaries, and research and development expenditures and any other expenses determined by the NJEDA to be necessary to carry out the purposes of the New Jersey Emerging Technology and Biotechnology Financial Assistance Program.

**“Biotechnology”** means the continually expanding body of fundamental knowledge about the functioning of biological systems from the macro level to the molecular and sub-atomic levels, as well as novel products, services, technologies and sub-technologies developed as a result of insights gained from research advances which add to that body of fundamental knowledge.

**“Biotechnology Business”** or **“Biotechnology Company”** means an emerging corporation that has a headquarters or base of operations located in New Jersey that owns, has filed for, or has a license to use protected, proprietary intellectual property; and that is engaged in the research, development, production, or provision of Biotechnology for the purpose of developing or providing products or processes for specific commercial or public purposes, including but not limited to, medical, pharmaceutical, nutritional, and other health-related purposes, agricultural purposes, and environmental purposes.

**“Certificate”** means the certificate issued by the Division relating to the Unused NOL Carryover and/or Unused R & D Credits of the Selling Company.

**“Date of Closing”** means the date on which the Certificate is exchanged for private financial assistance. For purposes of illustration, the date on which the Seller is in receipt of compensation as set forth in Article II, Section 2.01 hereof.

**“Division”** means the Division of Taxation.

**“Effective Date”** means the date last written below representing the date of execution of this Agreement by the respective Parties.

**“Employer Reporting Forms”** means Forms NJ-927 and WR-30 as filed through the State’s Department of Treasury website.

**“Face Value”** means the Surrendered Tax Benefit.

**“Full-Time Employee”** means a person, whose primary office is in New Jersey and who spends at least 80% of his or her time in New Jersey, employed by a New or Expanding emerging Technology or Biotechnology Company on a permanent or indefinite basis for consideration for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time employment and whose wages are subject to withholding as provided in the “New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act,” N.J.S.A. 54A:1-1 et seq., or who is a partner of a New or Expanding emerging Technology or Biotechnology Company who works for the partnership for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time employment, and whose distributive share of income, gain, loss, or deduction, or whose guaranteed payments, or any combination thereof, is subject to the payment of estimated taxes, as provided in the “New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act,” N.J.S.A. 54A:1-1 et seq., or who is employed under a formal written agreement with an institution of higher education whereby the institution's students are employed by the technology or biotechnology company on a permanent basis within a single position and in compliance with all other requirements of this definition. To qualify as a “Full-Time Employee,” an employee shall also receive from the New or Expanding emerging Technology or Biotechnology Company health benefits under a health benefits plan authorized pursuant to State or federal law. “Full-Time Employee” shall not include any person who works as an independent contractor or on a

consulting basis for the New or Expanding emerging Technology or Biotechnology Company; or any person who works as an intern, as a temporary employee, or in a temporary position.

**“New or Expanding”** means a Technology or Biotechnology Company that (1) on June 30 of the year in which the company files an application for surrender of unused but otherwise allowable tax benefits under P.L.1997, c.334 (N.J.S.A. 34:1B-7.42a) and on the Date of Closing, has fewer than 225 employees in the United States of America; (2) on June 30 of the year in which the company files such an application, has at least one Full-Time Employee working in this State if the company has been incorporated for less than three years, has at least five Full-Time Employees working in this State if the company has been incorporated for more than three years but less than five years, and has at least 10 Full-Time Employees working in this State if the company has been incorporated for more than five years; and (3) on the Date of Closing, the company has the requisite number of Full-Time Employees in New Jersey that were required on June 30 as set forth in part (2) of this definition.

In calculating the number of employees under this definition, employees of all affiliates and subsidiaries as shown on its consolidated financial statements, employees of any company that owns or controls at least 50 percent of the applicant, as well as the employees of any consolidated group of affiliated corporations as filed for Federal income tax purposes shall be included.

**“NJEDA”** means the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. 1974, c. 80 (C. 34:1B-4 et seq.), as amended and supplemented.

**“Seller’s Closing Certificate”** means the certificate signed by an authorized officer of the Selling Company **dated the Date of Closing** and satisfactory to the NJEDA that states, among other matters, that as of the date of the Seller’s Closing Certificate (Date of Closing) the Selling Company is operating as a New or Expanding emerging Biotechnology or Technology Business and has no current intention to cease operating as a New or Expanding emerging Biotechnology or Technology Business. The Seller’s Closing Certificate must be received by the NJEDA for the Certificate to be valid.

**“Selling Business Application”** or **“Selling Company Application”** means the application submitted on behalf of the Selling Business in order to participate in the Program for the applicable State Fiscal Year.

**“State Fiscal Year”** means for a particular year, the period of time which ends on June 30th of that year and begins on the previous July 1, or as may be amended by Executive Order.

**“Tax Clearance Certificate”** means a current New Jersey Business Assistance Tax Clearance Certificate, not more than 180 days old.

**“Technology Business”** or **“Technology Company”** means an emerging corporation that has a headquarters or base of operations located in New Jersey, that owns, has filed or has a license to use protected, proprietary intellectual property whose primary business is the provision of a scientific process, product, or service and that employs some combination of the following: highly educated or trained managers and workers, or both, employed in New Jersey who use sophisticated scientific research service or production equipment, processes or knowledge to discover, develop, test, transfer or manufacture a product or service. Examples of fields of active engagement satisfying this definition include: the designing and developing of computing hardware and software; the research, development, production, or provisions of materials with engineered properties created through the company’s development of specialized processing and synthesis technology; and the research, development, production or provision of technology involving microelectronics, semiconductors, electronic equipment and instrumentation, radio frequency, microwave and millimeter electronics, and optical and optic related electrical devices, or data and digital communications and imaging devices.

**“Unused NOL Carryover”** means Unused Net Operating Loss Carryover, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:10A-4 (k)(6)(B), of the Selling Company.

**“Unused R & D Credits”** means unused amounts of research and development tax credits, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:10A-5.24 (1)(b), of the Selling Company.

## **ARTICLE II**

**Section 2.01 Compensation.** Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 2.02 hereof, within ten (10) business days of Selling Company notifying Buying Company that the NJEDA has received a Certificate from the Division (“Seller Notice”), Buying Company agrees to purchase the Certificate for a purchase price in the aggregate amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (gross amount of sale) for the transfer of tax benefits in the amount of the Surrendered Tax Benefit for the years and amounts more fully set forth in the Selling Business Tax Benefit Identification Form, attached. The ten (10) business day period associated with Seller’s Notice may be extended by written agreement

between the Parties, along with the prior written consent of the NJEDA; and in no event shall said extension exceed twenty (20) business days.

**Section 2.02 Conditions to Purchase.** Buying Company's obligation to purchase is conditioned upon:

- a) preliminary approval by NJEDA of Selling Company's Application for transfer of tax benefits for private financial assistance;
- b) approval by the NJEDA of this Agreement, the Buying Business Information Sheet, the Selling Business Tax Benefit Identification Form, the Private Financial Assistance Form and if the Selling Company sold tax benefits in a prior year, a Spending Certification;
- c) a final determination by the Division that the amount of the Certificate is equal to the Surrendered Tax Benefit as evidenced by issuance of the Certificate to the NJEDA;
- d) a current Tax Clearance Certificate for the Seller and Buyer not more than 180 days old. **It remains the sole responsibility of the Seller and Buyer to renew the Tax Clearance Certificate and ensure continued Tax Clearance.** To apply to receive a Tax Clearance Certificate, the Parties must complete and submit the online application for Business Assistance Tax Clearance ("Tax Clearance Application") by visiting the State of New Jersey's Premier Business Services (PBS) portal at: [https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ PREMIER EBIZ/jsp/home.jsp](https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ_PREMIER_EBIZ/jsp/home.jsp). **Questions regarding Business Assistance Tax Clearance may be emailed to: [BusinessAssistanceTC.Taxation@treas.nj.gov](mailto:BusinessAssistanceTC.Taxation@treas.nj.gov).**
- e) the execution of the Seller's Closing Certificate, in a form satisfactory to the NJEDA, and dated as of the Date of Closing; and
- f) the Selling Company named in this Agreement agrees not to sell any Certificate in connection with the Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program to an Affiliated Business.

**Section 2.03 Conditions to Validity of Certificate.** The Buying Company acknowledges that the Certificate shall not be valid, and the Buying Company shall not utilize the Certificate, unless and until the Buying Company provides or causes to be provided to NJEDA the following:

- a) An original fully executed Seller's Closing Certificate dated the Date of Closing;
- b) A copy of the fully executed Certificate; and
- c) A completed and executed NOL Employee Closing Certification Log dated the Date of Closing and showing the minimum number of Full-Time Employees required by the Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program.

### ARTICLE III

**Section 3.01 Covenants of the Selling Company.** The Selling Company covenants:

- a) it shall maintain a headquarters or a base of operations in the State during the five years following the Date of Closing.
- b) annually for the First Quarter (Q1) of the five (5) years subsequent the Date of Closing, it shall provide to the NJEDA the Employer Reporting Forms via [NOL@njeda.com](mailto:NOL@njeda.com), subject: Q1 Reporting.
- c) the Selling Company shall expend the proceeds of this purchase for Allowable Expenditures. All construction is subject to the NJEDA's prevailing wage and affirmative action requirements as well as the Contractor's Registration Act ("Act"), effective April 1, 2020, which provides any and all construction contracts awarded in New Jersey that require payment of prevailing wage must also provide proof of valid Contractor Registration Certification ("CRC"). The Act will not require contracts that were awarded prior to April 1, 2020 to provide proof of CRC. Effective May 1, 2019, the Act also requires that all contractors participate in a registered apprenticeship program. In addition, the general contractor must include said language in all subcontracts. Regulations, forms, guidance documents are available at [www.njeda.com/affirmativeaction](http://www.njeda.com/affirmativeaction).
- d) if any representation made by Selling Company in this Agreement is willfully false or materially misleading or if Selling Company breaches the covenants set forth in Paragraph 3.01 a), b), or c) the Selling Company, only, shall be subject to the recapture of up to the Face Value of the tax benefits.

**Section 3.02 Covenants of the Buying Company.** The Buying Company covenants:

- a) it shall not assign, sell or transfer the Certificate to any Affiliated Business of Selling Company.
- b) if any representation made by Buying Company in this Agreement is willfully false or materially misleading or if Buying Company breaches the covenant set forth in Paragraph 3.02(a), the transfer of tax benefits contemplated by this Agreement shall be null and void.

**Section 3.03 Representation by Selling Company.**

- a) the Selling Company represents to Buying Company, NJEDA and the Division that Selling Company is not an Affiliated Business of Buying Company.
- b) the Selling Company represents that it is not in default any existing or new financial assistance or incentive provided by the NJEDA to the Selling Company and/or any of its Affiliates.

**Section 3.04 Representation by Buying Company.** The Buying Company represents to Selling Company, NJEDA and the Division that Buying Company is not an Affiliated Business of Selling Company.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

**Section 4.01 Non-assignability.** The Buying Company may not assign or transfer the Certificate in any manner.

#### **ARTICLE V**

**Section 5.01 Third Party Beneficiary.** The NJEDA shall be a third-party beneficiary to this Agreement, with the authority to enforce the provisions hereof and to declare a default hereunder.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

**Section 6.01 Default.** The occurrence of one or more of the following events shall constitute an event of default:

- a) failure by the Selling Company to comply with any covenant set forth under this Agreement.
- b) a declaration of default under any existing or new financial assistance or incentive provided by the NJEDA to the Selling Company and/or any of its Affiliates.

**Section 6.02 Remedies upon Default.** Upon the existence of any events of default, the Buying Party or the NJEDA, as third-party beneficiary to this Agreement, may take any action legally available to it. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:31-12.8, if the Selling Company fails to use the private financial assistance received for the surrender of tax benefits for Allowable Expenditures or fails to maintain a headquarters or a base of operation in the State during the five years following the Date of Closing, the Selling Company is subject to the recapture of up to the Face Value of the tax benefits.

**Section 6.03 Forbearance Not a Waiver.** No act of forbearance or failure to insist on the prompt performance of the obligations pursuant to this Agreement, either expressed or implied, shall be construed as a waiver of any rights hereunder. In the event that any provision of this Agreement should be breached and the breach may thereafter be waived, such waiver shall be limited to the particular breach waived and shall not be deemed to waive any other breach.

#### **ARTICLE VII**

**Section 7.01 Indemnification.** Selling Company covenants and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the NJEDA and the State of New Jersey and their respective members, agents, officers, employees and servants from all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, and costs whatsoever (including all costs, expenses and reasonable counsel fees incurred in investigating and defending



such losses and claims, etc.), brought by any person or entity, and caused by, related to, arising or purportedly arising out of, or from any loss, damage or injury resulting from the expenditure of the proceeds received pursuant to this Agreement or from the performance by the Parties hereto of the obligations set forth herein. The provisions of this Paragraph shall survive termination of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

**Section 8.01 Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Jersey. Any and all claims made or to be made against the NJEDA based in tort law for damages shall be governed by and subject to the provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:1-1 et seq. Any and all claims made or to be made against the NJEDA based in contract law for damages shall be governed by and subject to the provisions of the New Jersey Contractual Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 59:13-1 et seq.

**Section 8.02 Forum and Venue.** All actions related to the matters which are the subject of this Agreement shall be forumed and venued in the court of competent jurisdiction in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey.

**Section 8.03 Jury Waiver.** Selling Company waives any right to trial by jury on any claim, demand, action or cause of action arising under this Agreement or the transactions related hereto, in each case whether sounding in contract or tort or otherwise. Selling Company agrees and consents that any such claim, demand, action or cause of action shall be decided by court trial without a jury, and that any party to this Agreement may file an original counterpart or a copy of this section with any court as written evidence of the consent of Selling Company to the waiver of its right to trial by jury. Selling Company acknowledges that it has had the opportunity to consult with counsel regarding this section, that it fully understands its terms, content and effect, and that it voluntarily and knowingly agrees to the terms of this section.

**Section 8.04 Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, the Buying Business Information Sheet, the Selling Business Tax Benefit Identification Form, the Private Financial Form, the Seller's Closing Certificate, the application forms of the Selling Company and any documents referred to herein, constitute the complete understanding of the Parties and merge and supersede any and all other discussions, agreements and understandings, oral or written, between the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

**Section 8.05 Severability.** Whenever possible, each provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted in such manner as to be effective and valid pursuant to applicable law, but if any provision of this Agreement is held to be prohibited by or invalid under applicable law, such provisions shall be ineffective only to the extent of such prohibition or invalidity, without invalidating the remainder of such provisions of this Agreement, unless Buying Company shall in its sole and absolute discretion deem the invalidated provision essential to the accomplishment of the public purposes served by this Agreement, in which case Buying Company has the right to terminate this Agreement and all benefits provided to Selling Company hereunder upon the giving of sixty (60) days prior notice as set forth in Paragraph 8.05 hereof.

**Section 8.06 Notices.** All notices, consents, demands, requests and other communications which may be or are required to be given pursuant to any term of this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given when personally delivered or sent by United States mail, registered or certified, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the addresses set forth hereunder or to such other address as each party to this Agreement may hereafter designate in a written notice to the other party transmitted in accordance with this provision.

Selling Company Address:

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Buying Company Address:

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**Section 8.07 Amendments or Modifications.** This Agreement may only be amended or modified in a writing executed by both Parties, for good cause shown. Such amendments or modifications shall become effective only upon execution of same by both Parties and approval of the amendment or modification by the NJEDA and the Division.

**Section 8.08 Headings.** Section headings contained in this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not be deemed to be a part of this Agreement.

**Section 8.09 Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

**Section 8.10** This Agreement may be executed and delivered by telecopier, e-mail, PDF or other facsimile transmission all with the same force and effect as if the same were a fully executed and delivered original manual counterpart. Electronic signature of this Agreement shall be deemed to be valid execution and delivery as though an original ink. The Parties explicitly consent to the electronic delivery of the terms of the transaction evidenced by this Agreement and affirm that their electronic signatures indicate a present intent to be bound by the electronic signatures and the terms of the Agreement. The electronic signature can be done either by ADOBE Acrobat or any other similar signature software that can be used for electronic signatures or by printing, manually signing, and scanning.

**Section 8.11 Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective officers duly authorized as of the date and year last written below.

SELLING COMPANY:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BUYING COMPANY:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_