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Media Contact Information:

Dean Loftis

903-564-6545

[dloftis@sandboxww.com](mailto:dloftis@sandboxww.com)

**Field Study Demonstrates Accurate Diagnosis of African Swine Fever**

*Thermo Fisher Scientific research validates use of real-time PCR kit*

**LISSIEU, France** — May 2, 2016 — Recent outbreaks of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) in Eastern Europe have led to the growing need for more accurate diagnostics to help identify and monitor the highly contagious pathogen for which no treatment or vaccine currently exists. Scientists from Thermo Fisher Scientific have presented research data from a new duplex real-time PCR kit that demonstrates the ability to accurately detect the virus with high sensitivity and specificity in animal samples.

Results of the ASFV detection kit showed 100 percent sensitivity in all tested sample materials, including blood, serum and tissues, and 100 percent specificity. No cross reaction was found with other pathogens, and a serial dilution of the ASFV target sequence led to a limit of detection (LOD) of 16 genome copies per PCR reaction. The LSI VetMAX African Swine Fever Virus Detection Kit fulfills all the validation criteria for PCR characteristics and the complete method conforms to the requirements described in the French norm NF U47A-600.

“African Swine Fever Virus is a complex virus that can’t be identified from classical swine fever, by either clinical or post-mortem examination,” said Sandrine Moine, R&D manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific, first author of the study presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SVEPM) in March. “Since there is no vaccine or treatment, we felt it was of the utmost importance to develop a highly sensitive and accurate diagnostic test to help monitor and control the disease in animals. The LSI VetMAX African Swine Fever Virus Detection Kit provides a useful tool for early detection of the ASFV in pigs and wild boars as well as to confirm a clinical diagnosis.”

To demonstrate the accuracy of the Applied Biosystems LSI VetMAX African Swine Fever Virus Detection Kit, Thermo Fisher conducted field studies in France and the Netherlands with samples from Spain, the

\*Samples tested by the Central Veterinary Institute (CVI), the Netherlands and the National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA), Spain with in-house developed PCR tests

Netherlands and Germany. Researchers tested about 1,600 negative samples from ASFV-free regions in Germany and Spain and 33 different pathogens other than ASFV to demonstrate analytical specificity of the assay. Additionally, about 100 samples from Africa and Eastern Europe previously identified as ASFV-positive\* were tested to determine the test's sensitivity.

For more information about the new Applied Biosystems LSI VetMAX African Swine Fever Detection Kit, please visit [www.thermofisher.com/animalhealth](http://www.thermofisher.com/animalhealth).

### About ASF

ASFV is a DNA virus from the Asfviridae family. ASFV infects all Suidae (domestic and wild animals) but is not a human health threat. The virus is found in all body fluids and tissues of infected pigs. They usually become infected by direct contact with sick animals or by ingestion of infected products. ASFV is highly resistant in the environment. ASF disease is characterized by high fever, loss of appetite, hemorrhages in the skin and internal organs, and death can occur within two to 10 days. ASF cannot be differentiated from classical swine fever by either clinical or post-mortem examination. It is an economically important disease that is widely endemic in many parts of Africa and has become a real threat in Eastern Europe (Figure 1).

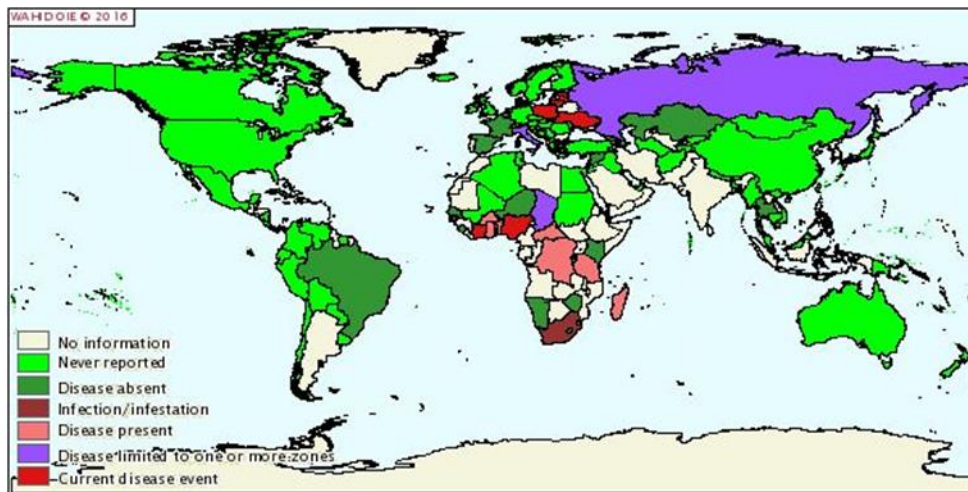


Figure 1. Global ASFV distribution map from Jan-June 2015. Source: OIE

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