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Improved method of expression cloning in a host cell

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(54) Title: IMPROVED METHOD OF EXPRESSION CLONING IN A HOST CELL

(57) Abstract: DSM IP Assets B.V. 24403WO IMPROVED METHOD OF EXPRESSION CLONING IN A HOST CELL 5 AB-STRACT The invention relates to a promoter DNA sequence highly suited in an improved expression cloning method for isolation of DNA sequences comprising a DNA sequence encoding a protein of interest in a host cell and to the improved expression cloning method wherein use is made of this promoter. The isolated DNA sequences are useful in processes for 10 producing a protein of interest.

IMPROVED METHOD OF EXPRESSION CLONING IN A HOST CELL

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Field of the invention

The present invention relates to a promoter highly suited for being used in a method for the identification of DNA sequences encoding proteins of interest by expression cloning.

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Background of the invention

An increasing number of screening methods based on expression cloning are already known. Such methods have previously successfully been used for identification of prokaryotic gene products in e.g. Bacillus (cf. US 4,469,791, WO2005/38024) and E.coli (e.g. WO 95/18219 and WO 95/34662). WO2005/38024 describes a method of screening protein secreting recombinant Bacillus cells. However, this method is lacking high 15 throughput, automated detection technology. Yeast has also been used as a host for expression cloning of eukaryotic genes. Strasser et al. (Eur. J. Biochem. (1989)184: 699-706) have reported the identification of a fungal α -amylase by expression cloning of fungal genomic DNA in the yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Similarly, WO 93/11249 reports the identification of a fungal cellulase by expression cloning of fungal cDNAs in S.cerevisiae. Lastly, an expression cloning method in filamentous fungus has been described (WO

99/32617).

In all these methods, large number of transformants would have to be screened before a transformant secreting a protein with properties of interest could be isolated. There is thus a

need for an expression cloning method that would optimise the chance of detecting DNA 25 sequences encoding secreted proteins.

Brief description of the figures

Figure 1. Depicted is pPhtrA-gfp-amyE. This secretion reporter vector comprises the htrA promoter of B.subtilis in operative association with GFP. This vector is representitive for 30 pPhtrB-gfp-amyE.

Figure 2. Construction of *B. subtilis* reporter strains for secretion-stress. The *htr* promoters were fused to the GFP gene, finally resulting in plasmids pPhtrA-gfp-amyE and pPhtrB-gfp-

amyE. The resulting plasmids were integrated into the chromosome of *Bacillus* host cells via single crossing-over recombination in the corresponding *htr* loci, resulting in VT210A and VT210B cells. *Cmr* represents the chloramphenicol resistance gene.

5 **Figure 3.** Depicted is pUBnpr-2, comprising the neutral protease gene *npr* (Genbank accession number K 02497) from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.

Figure 4. Depicted is pUBBAG, comprising the ß-glucanase gene *bag* (Genbank accession number M15674) from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.

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Figure 5. Depicted is the analysis of *Bacillus subtilis* VT210A cells transformed with either plasmid pUB110 (empty control vector) or plasmid pKTH10 (encoding *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* a-amylase gene *amy*Q) using Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting. On the y-axis the amount of observed events is depicted, on the x-axis the relative fluorescence is depicted. In panel A, analysis of *Bacillus subtilis* VT210A cells transformed with empty vector pUB110 is depicted. In panel B, analysis of *Bacillus subtilis* VT210A cells transformed with *amy*Q vector pKTH10 is depicted. In panel C, analysis of a mixed population of *Bacillus subtilis* VT210A cells transformed with *amy*Q vector pKTH10 is depicted. In panel C, analysis of 1:20 is depicted. In panel D, cell sorting of a mixed population of *Bacillus subtilis* VT210A cells transformed with both pUB110 and pKTH10 is depicted; the cell sorting limit is indicated by a dashed vertical line. Cells demonstrating higher fluorescence than this limit were sorted.

Figure 6. Depicted is the analysis of a mixed population of *Bacillus subtilis* VT210B cells transformed with either plasmid pUB110 (empty control vector) or plasmid pKTH10 (encoding *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* a-amylase gene *amy*Q). Analysis was performed by Fluorescence Activated Cell Scanning. On the y-axis the amount of observed events is depicted, on the x-axis the relative fluorescence is depicted.

Figure 7. Depicted is the pGBFINGFP-2 vector used for expression of Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP, Chalfie, M et al., Science (1994) 263(5148): 802-805) in *A. niger*. The backbone features of the depicted FIN vectors were previously described in WO 99/32617.

Figure 8. Depicted is the pGBFIN-32 vector used for expression of phytase (PHY) (phytase gene PHY identical to FytA described in WO99/32617) in *A. niger*.

Figure 9. Depicted is the pGBFIN-40 vector with the larger part of the phytase gene and the entire glucoamylase promoter removed, this vector is used as empty control vector for construction of *A. niger* WT-vector strain.

5 **Figure 10.** Depicted is a Northern Blot analysis performed to confirm the identification of secretion-induced promoters.

Figure 11. Depicted is a vector used for gene expression in *A. niger*. This vector is used as backbone in the construction of the secretion-induced *A.niger* reporter constructs.

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Figure 12. Depicted is the pGBFINGFPBLE-1 cloning vector. This secretion-inducible reporter construct comprises the GFP-BLE reporter fusion gene in operative association with secretion-inducible promoter 1 of the present invention. The construct is representative for pGBFINGFPBLE-2, pGBFINGFPBLE-3, pGBFINGFPBLE-4, and pGBFINGFPBLE-5.

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Figure 13. Depicted is pGBTOPSEL-1, this vector is used as the backbone for construction of the final secretion-inducible reporter plasmids. Backbone features of the depicted vector were previously described in WO 99/32617.

Figure 14. Depicted is the final secretion reporter construct pGBTOPGFPBLE-1. This secretion-induced reporter vector comprises the GFP-BLE reporter construct in operative association with secretion-inducible promoter 1 of the present invention. The vector is representative for pGBTOPGFPBLE-2, pGBTOPGFPBLE-3, pGBTOPGFPBLE-4, and pGBTOPGFPBLE-5.

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Figure 15. Depicted is the difference in phleomycin resistance of *A. niger* co-transformants containing a reporter construct with secretion-inducible promoter P4 in combination with a library construct encoding either an intracellular protein (represented by black dots) or an extracellular protein (represented by black squares).

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Figure 16. Depicted is the difference in phleomycin resistance of *A. niger* co-transformants containing a reporter construct with secretion-inducible promoter P5 in combination with a library construct encoding either an intracellular protein (represented by black dots) or an extracellular protein (represented by black squares).

Figure 17. Depicted is an E-PAGE[™] gel, wherein each lane represents a co-transformed *A.niger* clone comprising a reporter contruct with secretion-inducible promoter P1 in combination with a library construct encoding an extracellular protein. M represents the E-PAGE SeeBlue® prestained standard (Invitrogen, U.K.).

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Figure 18. Depicted is an E-PAGE[™] gel, wherein each lane represents a co-transformed *A.niger* clone comprising a reporter contruct with secretion-inducible promoter P3 in combination with a library construct encoding an extracellular protein. M represents the E-PAGE SeeBlue® prestained standard (Invitrogen, U.K.).

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Description of the invention

Promoter DNA sequence

(a),

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a promoter DNA sequence such as:

- (a) a DNA sequence as presented in the following list: SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24,
- (b) a DNA sequence capable of hybridizing with a DNA sequence of (a),

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- (c) a DNA sequence being at least 50% homologous to a DNA sequence of (a),
- (d) a variant of any of the DNA sequences of (a) to (c), or
- (e) a subsequence of any of the DNA sequences of (a) to (d).

According to a preferred embodiment, the promoter sequence of the invention is one promoter DNA sequence such as:

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- (a) one DNA sequence as presented in the following list: SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24,
 - (b) one DNA sequence capable of hybridizing with a DNA sequence of (a),
 - (c) one DNA sequence being at least 50% homologous to a DNA sequence of

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- (d) one variant of any of the DNA sequences of (a) to (c), or
- (e) one subsequence of any of the DNA sequences of (a) to (d).

In the context of this application, a promoter DNA sequence is a DNA sequence, which is capable of controlling the expression of a coding sequence, when this promoter DNA sequence is in operative association with this coding sequence. The term "in operative

association" is defined herein as a configuration in which a promoter DNA sequence is appropriately placed at a position relative to a coding sequence such that the promoter DNA sequence directs the production of a polypeptide encoded by the coding sequence.

The term "coding sequence" is defined herein as a nucleic acid sequence that is transcribed into mRNA, which is translated into a polypeptide when placed under the control of the appropriate control sequences. The boundaries of the coding sequence are generally determined by the ATG start codon, which is normally the start of the open reading frame at the 5' end of the mRNA and a transcription terminator sequence located just downstream of the open reading frame at the 3' end of the mRNA. A coding sequence can include, but is not limited to, genomic DNA, cDNA, semisynthetic, synthetic, and recombinant nucleic acid sequences. Preferably, a promoter DNA sequence is defined by being the DNA sequence located upstream of a coding sequence associated thereto and by being capable of controlling the expression of this coding sequence.

More specifically, the term "promoter" is defined herein as a DNA sequence that binds the RNA polymerase and directs the polymerase to the correct downstream transcriptional start site of a coding sequence encoding a polypeptide to initiate transcription. RNA polymerase effectively catalyzes the assembly of messenger RNA complementary to the appropriate DNA strand of the coding region. The term "promoter" will also be understood to include the 5' non-coding region (between promoter and translation start) for translation after transcription into mRNA, cis-acting transcription control elements such as enhancers, and other nucleotide sequences capable of interacting with transcription factors.

In a preferred embodiment, the promoter DNA sequence of the invention is a DNA sequence derived from: SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24.

According to another preferred embodiment, the promoter DNA sequence of the invention is a DNA sequence capable of hybridizing with a DNA sequence as presented in the following list: SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 and which still retains promoter activity.

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Promoter activity is preferably determined by measuring the concentration of the protein(s) produced as a result of the expression of a coding sequence(s), which is (are) in operative association with the promoter. Alternatively the promoter activity is determined by measuring the enzymatic activity of the protein(s) coded by the coding sequence(s), which is (are) in operative association with the promoter. According to a preferred embodiment, the promoter activity (and its strength) is determined by measuring the expression of the

coding sequence of the *lac*Z reporter gene (In Luo, Gene 163 (1995) 127-131 or Perkins and Youngman (1986) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **83**: 140; or Vagner *et al.* (1998) *Microbiology* **144**: 3097). According to another preferred embodiment, the promoter activity is determined by using the green fluorescent protein as coding sequence (In Microbiology. 1999 Mar;145

- 5 (Pt 3):729-34. Santerre Henriksen AL, Even S, Muller C, Punt PJ, van den Hondel CA, Nielsen J.Study). In bacterial cells, GFP and other fluorescent proteins have been used extensively for expression and (dynamic) protein localization studies (reviewed in Southward and Surette (2002) *Mol. Microbiol.* 45: 1191). Additionally, promoter activity can be determined by measuring the mRNA levels of the transcript generated under control of the promoter. The mRNA levels can, for example, be measured by Northern blot, GeneChips™(Affymetrix) or spotted array technology or quantitative (real time) PCR (J.
 - Sambrook, E. F. Fritsch, and T. Maniatis, 2001, Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 3d edition, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.). Most preferably, promoter activity is determined by mRNA analysis using Northern blot.

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Preferably, (isolated) promoter DNA sequences of the invention hybridize under very low stringency conditions, more preferably low stringency conditions, more preferably medium stringency conditions, more preferably medium-high stringency conditions, even more preferably high stringency conditions, and most preferably very high stringency conditions with a nucleic acid probe which hybridizes under the same conditions with:

- 20 (i) SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24., or
 - (ii) a subsequence of (i), or
 - (iii) a complementary strand of (i), (ii),
- The term complementary strand is known to the person skilled in the art and is
 described in (J. Sambrook, E. F. Fritsch, and T. Maniatus, 1989, Molecular Cloning, A
 Laboratory Manual, 2d edition, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.). A subsequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID
 NO:24 may be ranged between 20 nucleotides and the respective whole sequence of SEQ
 ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or
 SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or
 SEQ ID NO:24 upstream the coding region (the corresponding coding regions of SEQ ID
 NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID
 NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID
 NO:20, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 and SEQ ID
 NO:29).

The nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID 35 NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 or a subsequence thereof (as defined in the previous paragraph) may be used to design a nucleic acid probe to identify

and clone DNA promoters from strains of different genera or species according to methods well known in the art. In particular, such probes can be used for hybridization with the genomic or cDNA of the genus or species of interest, following standard Southern blotting procedures, in order to identify and isolate the corresponding gene therein. Such probes can be considerably shorter than the entire sequence, but should be at least 15, preferably at least 25, and more preferably at least 35 nucleotides in length. Additionally, such probes can be used to amplify DNA promoters though PCR. Longer probes can also be used. DNA, RNA and Peptide Nucleid Acid (PNA) probes can be used. The probes are typically labeled for detecting the corresponding gene (for example, with @32 P, @33 P @3 H, @35 S, biotin, or avidin or a fluorescent marker). Such probes are encompassed by the present invention.

Thus, a genomic DNA or cDNA library prepared from such other organisms may be screened for DNA, which hybridizes with the probes described above and which encodes a polypeptide. Genomic or other DNA from such other organisms may be separated by agarose or polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, or other separation techniques. DNA from 15 the libraries or the separated DNA may be transferred to and immobilized on nitrocellulose or other suitable carrier material. In order to identify a clone or DNA sequence which is homologous with SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 or a subsequence thereof, the carrier material 20 may be used in a Southern blot. For purposes of the present invention, hybridization indicates that the DNA sequence hybridizes under very low to very high stringency conditions to a labeled nucleic acid probe corresponding to the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24, to the complementary strands of said DNA sequences, or to subsequences of said DNA sequences. Molecules to which the nucleic acid probe 25 hybridizes under these conditions are detected using for example a X-ray film. Other hybridisation techniques also can be used, such as techniques using fluorescence for detection and glass sides and/or DNA microarrays as support. An example of DNA microarray hybridisation detection is given in FEMS Yeast Res. 2003 Dec;4(3):259-69 (Daran-Lapujade P, Daran JM, Kotter P, Petit T, Piper MD, Pronk JT. "Comparative 30 genotyping of the Saccharomyces cerevisiae laboratory strains S288C and CEN.PK113-7D using oligonucleotide microarrays". Additionally, the use of PNA microarrays for hybridization is described in Nucleic Acids Res. 2003 Oct 1;31(19):e119 (Brandt O, Feldner J, Stephan A, Schroder M, Schnolzer M, Arlinghaus HF, Hoheisel JD, Jacob A. PNA microarrays for hybridisation of unlabelled DNA samples.) 35

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In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid or DNA probe is the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is the DNA sequence having nucleotides 100 to 150 of SEQ ID NO:1 or the DNA sequence having nucleotides 170 to 220 of SEQ ID NO:2.

In another preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is the DNA sequence having :

- nucleotides 996 to 2797 of SEQ ID NO: 20, nucleotides 996 to 3561 of SEQ ID NO: 21, nucleotides 997 to 3536 of SEQ ID NO: 22, nucleotides 1034 to 3175 of SEQ ID NO: 23, or nucleotides 1080 to 4054 of SEQ ID NO: 24, more preferably:
- nucleotides 1496 to 2497 of SEQ ID NO: 20, nucleotides 1496 to 3261 of SEQ ID NO: 21, nucleotides 1497 to 3236 of SEQ ID NO: 22, nucleotides 1534 to 2875 of SEQ ID NO: 23, or nucleotides 1580 to 3754 of SEQ ID NO: 24, even more preferably:
- nucleotides 1896 to 2197 of SEQ ID NO: 20, nucleotides 1896 to 2861 of SEQ ID NO:
- 21, nucleotides 1897 to 2936 of SEQ ID NO: 22, nucleotides 1934 to 2575 of SEQ ID NO: 23, or nucleotides 1980 to 3454 of SEQ ID NO: 24, and most preferably:
 - nucleotides 1996 to 2100 of SEQ ID NO: 20, nucleotides 1996 to 2300 of SEQ ID NO: 21, nucleotides 1997 to 2400 of SEQ ID NO: 22, nucleotides 2034 to 2100 of SEQ ID NO: 23, or nucleotides 2080 to 2800 of SEQ ID NO: 24.

According to another preferred embodiment, the probe is part of the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 located upstream of the coding sequence. The corresponding coding regions of SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 are respectively given in SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 and SEQ ID NO:29).

For long probes of at least 100 nucleotides in length, very low to very high stringency conditions are defined as prehybridization and hybridization at 42 degrees Celsius in 5 times SSPE, 0.3% SDS, 200 microgram/ml sheared and denatured salmon sperm DNA, and either 25% formamide for very low and low stringencies, 35% formamide for medium and medium-high stringencies, or 50% formamide for high and very high stringencies, following standard Southern blotting procedures. For long probes of at least 100 nucleotides in length, the carrier material is finally washed three times each for 15 minutes using 2 times SSC, 0.2% SDS preferably at least at 45 DEG C. (very low stringency), more preferably at least at 50 degrees Celsius (low stringency), more preferably at least at 55 degrees Celsius (medium stringency), more preferably at least at 60 degrees Celsius (medium-high stringency), even more preferably at least at 65 degrees Celsius (high stringency), and most preferably at least at 70 degrees Celsius (very high stringency).

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For short probes which are about 15 nucleotides to about 70 nucleotides in length, stringency conditions are defined as prehybridization, hybridization, and washing post-hybridization at 5 degrees Celsius to 10 degrees Celsius below the calculated Tm using the calculation according to Bolton and McCarthy (1962, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 48:1390) in 0.9 M NaCl, 0.09 M Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 6 mM EDTA, 0.5% NP-40, 1.times.Denhardt's solution, 1 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 1 mM sodium monobasic phosphate, 0.1 mM ATP, and 0.2 mg of yeast RNA per ml following standard Southern blotting procedures. For short probes, which are about 15 nucleotides to about 70 nucleotides in length, the carrier material is washed once in 6 times SCC plus 0.1% SDS for 15 minutes and twice each for 15 minutes using 6 times SSC at 5 degrees Celsius to 10 degrees Celsius below the calculated Tm.

According to another preferred embodiment, the promoter DNA sequence of the invention derived from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 is first used to clone the native gene, coding sequence or part of it, which is operatively associated with it. This can be done starting with 15 either SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 or a subsequence thereof as earlier defined and using this sequence as a probe. The probe is hybridised to a cDNA or a genomic library of a given host either Bacillus, Aspergillus niger or any other host as defined in this application. Once 20 the native gene or part of it has been cloned, it can be subsequently used itself as a probe to clone homologous genes thereof derived from other host by hybridisation experiments as described herein. In this context, a homologous gene means a gene, which is at least 50% homologous to the native gene. Preferably, the homologous gene is at least 55% homologous, more preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 65%, more preferably at least 70%, even more preferably at least 75% preferably about 80%, more preferably about 25 90%, even more preferably about 95%, and most preferably about 97% homologous to the native gene.

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The sequence upstream the coding sequence of the homologous gene is a promoter encompassed by the present invention. Alternatively, the sequence of the native gene, coding sequence or part of it, which is operatively associated with a promoter of the invention can be identified by using SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 or SEQ ID NO:29 or a subsequence thereof as earlier defined to search genomic databases using for example an alignment or BLAST algoritm as described herein. This identified sequence subsequently can be used to identify orthologues or homologous genes in any other fungal host as defined in this application. The sequence upstream the coding

sequence of the identified orthologue or homologous gene is a promoter encompassed by the present invention.

According to another preferred embodiment, the promoter DNA sequence of the invention is a(n) (isolated) DNA sequence derived from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 and which still has promoter activity as defined earlier.

According to another preferred embodiment, the promoter DNA sequence of the invention is a(n) (isolated) DNA sequence derived from either SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24, respectively, which is at least 50% homologous to at least part of the respective corresponding DNA sequences: SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19 situated upstream of the respective coding regions (SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 or SEQ ID NO:29). Preferably, the derived DNA sequence is at least 55% homologous, more preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 65%, more preferably at least 70%, even more preferably at least 75% preferably about 97% homologous to at least part of SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19 situated upstream of the respective of the respective coding regions (SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 or SEQ ID NO:29). Preferably, the derived DNA sequence is at least 55% homologous, more preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 65%, more preferably at least 70%, even more preferably at least 75% preferably about 97% homologous to at least part of SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19 situated upstream of the respective corresponding coding region.

For purposes of the present invention, the degree of homology between two nucleic acid sequences is preferably determined by the Wilbur-Lipman method (Wilbur and Lipman, 1983, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA 80: 726-730) using the LASERGENE.TM. MEGALIGN.TM. software (DNASTAR, Inc., Madison, Wis.) with an identity table and the following multiple alignment parameters: Gap penalty of 10 and gap length penalty of 10. Pairwise alignment parameters were Ktuple=3, gap penalty=3, and windows=20.

According to another preferred embodiment, the promoter DNA sequence of the invention is derived from a(n) (isolated) DNA sequence, which is a variant of either SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19 or part of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19 situated upstream of the respective corresponding coding region. The term "variant promoter" is defined herein as a promoter having a nucleotide sequence comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more nucleotides of a parent promoter, wherein the variant promoter has more or less promoter activity than the corresponding parent promoter. The term "variant promoter" will also encompass natural variants and in vitro generated variants obtained using methods well known in the art such as classical mutagenesis, site-directed mutagenesis, and DNA

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shuffling. A variant promoter may have one or more mutations. Each mutation is an independent substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of a nucleotide. The introduction of a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of a nucleotide into the promoter may be accomplished using any of the methods known in the art such as classical mutagenesis, site-directed mutagenesis, or DNA shuffling. Particularly useful is a procedure, which utilizes a supercoiled, double stranded DNA vector with an insert of interest and two synthetic primers containing the desired mutation. The oligonucleotide primers, each complementary to opposite strands of the vector, extend during temperature cycling by means of Pfu DNA polymerase. On incorporation of the primers, a mutated plasmid containing staggered nicks is generated. Following temperature cycling, the product is treated with DpnI, which is specific for methylated and hemimethylated DNA to digest the parental DNA template and to select for mutation-containing synthesized DNA. Other procedures known in the art may also be used. Example of other procedures are the QuickChange[™] site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA), the 'The Altered Sites[®] II in vitro Mutagenesis Systems' (Promega Corporation) or by overlap extension using PCR as described in Gene. 1989 Apr 15;77(1):51-9. (Ho SN, Hunt HD, Horton RM, Pullen JK, Pease LR "Site-directed mutagenesis by overlap extension using the polymerase chain reaction") or using PCR as described in Molecular Biology: Current Innovations and Future Trends. (Eds. A.M. Griffin and H.G.Griffin. ISBN 1-898486-01-8

1995 Horizon Scientific Press, PO Box 1, Wymondham, Norfolk, U.K.). According to a preferred embodiment, the variant promoter is a promoter, which has at least one modified regulatory site as compared to the promoter sequence first derived from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19. Such regulatory site can have been removed in its entirety or specifically mutated as explained above. The regulation of such promoter variant is thus modified so that for example it is no longer induced by glucose. Examples of such promoter variants and techniques on how to obtain them are described in EP 673 429B or in WO 94/04673.

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The promoter variant can be an allelic variant. An allelic variant denotes any of two or more alternative forms of a gene occupying the same chomosomal locus. Allelic variation arises naturally through mutation, and may result in polymorphism within populations. The variant promoter may be obtained by the following method comprising steps (a) and (b):

(a) hybridizing a DNA sequence under very low, low, medium, medium-high, high, or very high stringency conditions with:

(i) SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17,
 35 SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19, or

(ii) a subsequence of (i), or

(iii) a complementary strand of (i), (ii), and

(b) isolating the variant promoter from the DNA sequence. Stringency and wash conditions are defined herein.

The variant promoter can be a promoter, whose sequence may be provided with linkers for the purpose of introducing specific restriction sites facilitating ligation of the promoter sequence with the coding region of the nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter DNA sequence is derived from a subsequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19. A subsequence is preferably defined in this context as being part of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19 located upstream of the respective corresponding coding sequence as defined previously.

The subsequence preferably contains at least about 50 nucleotides, or preferably at least about 100 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 200 nucleotides, even more preferably at least about 230 nucleotides, even more preferably at least about 250 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 290 nucleotides.

According to another preferred embodiment, the subsequence differs from the one defined in former sentence by the fact that one or more nucleotides from the 5' and/or 3' end have been deleted, said DNA sequence still having promoter activity as defined earlier.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter subsequence is a 'trimmed' subsequence from translation start and/or from transcription start. An example of trimming a promoter and functionally analysing it is described in Gene. 1994 Aug 5;145(2):179-87: the effect of multiple copies of the upstream region on expression of the *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase-encoding gene. Verdoes JC, Punt PJ, Stouthamer AH, van den Hondel CA).

The sequence information as provided herein should not be so narrowly construed as to require inclusion of erroneously identified bases. The specific sequences disclosed herein can be readily used and be eventually subjected to further sequence analyses thereby identifying sequencing errors to isolate the original DNA sequence from a filamentous fungus, in particular *Aspergillus niger*.

Unless otherwise indicated, all nucleotide sequences determined by sequencing a DNA molecule herein were determined using an automated DNA sequencer. Therefore, as is known in the art for any DNA sequence determined by this automated approach, any nucleotide sequence determined herein may contain some errors. Nucleotide sequences determined by automation are typically at least about 90% identical, more typically at least about 95% to at least about 99.9% identical to the actual nucleotide sequence of the

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sequenced DNA molecule. The actual sequence can be more precisely determined by other approaches including manual DNA sequencing methods well known in the art.

The person skilled in the art is capable of identifying such erroneously identified bases and knows how to correct for such errors.

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Functional nucleic acid equivalents may typically contain mutations that do not alter the biological function of the promoter it contains. The term "functional equivalents" also encompasses orthologues of the *A. niger* DNA sequences. Orthologues of the *A. niger* DNA sequences are DNA sequences that can be isolated from other strains or species and possess a similar or identical biological activity.

10 Homologous (similar or identical) sequences can also be determined by using a "sequence comparison algorithm". Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, e.g., by the local homology algorithm of Smith & Waterman, Adv. Appl. Math. 2: 482 (1981), by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman & Wunsch, J. Mol. Biol. 48: 443 (1970), by the search for similarity method of Pearson & Lipman, Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA 85: 2444 (1988), by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, 15 BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by visual inspection. An example of an algorithm that is suitable for determining sequence similarity is the BLAST algorithm, which is described in Altschul, et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403-410 (1990). Alternatively other programs 20 can be used for sequence alignment as earlier described herein. Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence that either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. These initial neighborhood word 25 hits act as starting points to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are expanded in both directions along each of the two sequences being compared for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Extension of the word hits is stopped when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from a maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below : or the end of either sequence is reached. The 30

BLAST algorithm parameters W, T, and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLAST program uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff & Henikoff, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89: 10915 (1989)) alignments (B) of 50, expectation (E) of 10, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands.
The BLAST algorithm then performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences (see, e. g., Karlin & Altschul, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA 90: 5873-5787 (1993)).

One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P (N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, an amino acid sequence is considered similar to a protein such as a protease if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test amino acid sequence to a protein such as a protease amino acid sequence is less than about 0.1, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

Preferably the similarity of the variant promoter is at least 40% homology to one of the DNA sequences having SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19. More preferably the similarity is at least 50%, more preferably, at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, more preferably at least 80%, more preferably at least 90% and more preferably at least 95% or at least 98% homology to the DNA sequence having SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19.

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In addition to naturally occurring allelic variants of the promoter sequence, the skilled person will recognise that changes can be introduced by mutation into the promoter sequence derived from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:19, without substantially altering its promoter function.

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The promoter sequences of the present invention may be obtained from microorganisms of any genus. For purposes of the present invention, the term "obtained from" as used herein in connection with a given source shall mean that the polypeptide is produced by the source or by a cell in which a gene from the source has been inserted.

Preferably, the microorganism is a prokaryote. Preferred prokaryotes are Bacillus and E. coli. Preferred Bacilli are Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus licheniformis, 25 Bacillus alcalophilus, Bacillus clausii, Bacillus brevis, Bacillus circulans, Bacillus firmus, Bacilluspumilis, Bacillus stearothermophilus, Bacillus megaterium, Bacillus lentus, or Bacillus thuringiensis.

Alternatively, the promoter sequence is obtained from an eukaryote, preferably a fungal source, and more preferably from a yeast strain such as a Candida, Hansenula, 30 Kluyveromyces, Pichia, Saccharomyces, Schizosaccharomyces, or Yarrowia strain; or more preferably from a filamentous fungal strain such as an Acremonium, Aspergillus, Aureobasidium, Cryptococcus, Filibasidium, Fusarium, Humicola, Magnaporthe, Mucor, Myceliophthora, Neocallimastix, Neurospora, Paecilomyces, Penicillium, Piromyces, Schizophyllum, Talaromyces, Thermoascus, Thielavia, Tolypocladium, or Trichoderma 35

strain.

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In a preferred embodiment, the promoter sequences are obtained from a *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Saccharomyces diastaticus, Saccharomyces douglasii, Saccharomyces kluyveri, Saccharomyces norbensis, Saccharomyces oviformis, Saccharomyces bayanus, Saccharomyces bayanus, var. uvarum or Saccharomyces pastorianus strain.*

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter sequences are obtained from an Aspergillus aculeatus, Aspergillus awamori, Aspergillus foetidus, Aspergillus japonicus, A. nidulans, A. niger, preferably A. niger CBS 513.88, A. sojae, Aspergillus oryzae (A. oryzae), Humicola insolens, Humicola lanuginosa, Mucor miehei, Myceliophthora thermophila, Neurospora crassa, Penicillium purpurogenum, Trichoderma harzianum, Trichoderma koningii, Trichoderma longibrachiatum, Trichoderma reesei, or Trichoderma viride strain.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter sequences are obtained from a Fusarium bactridioides, Fusarium cerealis, Fusarium crookwellense, Fusarium culmorum, Fusarium graminearum, Fusarium graminum, Fusarium heterosporum Fusarium negundi, Fusarium oxysporum, Fusarium reticulatum, Fusarium roseum, Fusarium sambucinum, Fusarium sarcochroum, Fusarium sporotrichioides, Fusarium sulphureum, Fusarium torulosum, Fusarium trichothecioides, Fusarium venenatum strain.

It will be understood that for the aforementioned species, the invention encompasses the perfect and imperfect states, and other taxonomic equivalents, e.g., anamorphs, regardless of the species name by which they are known. Those skilled in the art will readily recognize the identity of appropriate equivalents. Strains of these species are readily accessible to the public in a number of culture collections, such as the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSM), Centraalbureau Voor Schimmelcultures (CBS), and Agricultural Research Service Patent Culture Collection, Northern Regional Research Center (NRRL).

Furthermore, such nucleic acid sequences may be identified and obtained from other sources including microorganisms isolated from nature (e.g, soil, composts, water, etc.) using the above-mentioned probes. Techniques for isolating microorganisms from natural habitats are well known in the art. The nucleic acid sequence may then be derived by similarly screening a genomic DNA library of another microorganism. Once a nucleic acid sequence encoding a promoter has been detected with the probe(s), the sequence may be isolated or cloned by utilizing techniques which are known to those of ordinary skill in the art (see, e.g., Sambrook et al., 1989, supra).

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In the present invention, the promoter DNA sequence may also be a hybrid promoter comprising a portion of one or more promoters of the present invention; a portion of a promoter of the present invention and a portion of another known promoter, e.g., a leader

sequence of one promoter and the transcription start site from the other promoter; or a portion of one or more promoters of the present invention and a portion of one or more other promoters. The other promoter may be any promoter sequence, which shows transcriptional activity in the host cell of choice including a variant, truncated, and hybrid promoter, and may be obtained from genes encoding extracellular or intracellular polypeptides either homologous or heterologous to the host cell. The other promoter sequence may be native or foreign to the nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide and native or foreign to the cell.

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As a preferred embodiment, important regulatory subsequences of the promoter identified can be fused to other 'basic' promoters to enhance their promoter activity (as for example described in Mol Microbiol. 1994 May;12(3):479-90. Regulation of the xylanase-encoding xInA gene of *Aspergillus tubigensis*. de Graaff LH, van den Broeck HC, van Ooijen AJ, Visser J.).

- Other examples of other promoters useful in the construction of hybrid promoters 15 with the promoters of the present invention include the promoters obtained from the genes for A. oryzae TAKA amylase, Rhizomucor miehei aspartic proteinase, A. niger neutral alpha-amylase, A. niger acid stable alpha-amylase, A. niger or Aspergillus awamori glucoamylase (glaA), A. niger gpdA, A. niger glucose oxidase goxC, Rhizomucor miehei lipase, A. oryzae alkaline protease, A. oryzae triose phosphate isomerase, A. nidulans 20 acetamidase, and Fusarium oxysporum trypsin-like protease (WO 96/00787), as well as the NA2-tpi promoter (a hybrid of the promoters from the genes for A. niger neutral alphaamylase and A. oryzae triose phosphate isomerase), Saccharomyces cerevisiae enolase (ENO-1), Saccharomyces cerevisiae galactokinase (GAL1), Saccharomyces cerevisiae alcohol dehydrogenase/glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (ADH2/GAP), and Saccharomyces cerevisiae 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, and mutant, truncated, and hybrid 25 promoters thereof. Other useful promoters for yeast host cells are described by Romanoset al., 1992, Yeast 8: 423-488. Other useful promoters for bacterial cells are the promoter of the following genes B. subtilis alkaline protease (apr), B. subtilis neutral protease (npr), B. amyloliquefaciens α -amylase (amyQ), B. amyloliquefaciens alkaline protease (apr), and B.
- 30 *amyloliquefaciens* neutral protease (*npr*)

In the present invention, the promoter DNA sequence may also be a "tandem promoter". A "tandem promoter" is defined herein as two or more promoter sequences each of which is in operative association with a coding sequence and mediates the transcription of the coding sequence into mRNA.

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The tandem promoter comprises two or more promoters of the present invention or alternatively one or more promoters of the present invention and one or more other known

promoters, such as those exemplified above useful for the construction of hybrid promoters. The two or more promoter sequences of the tandem promoter may simultaneously promote the transcription of the nucleic acid sequence. Alternatively, one or more of the promoter sequences of the tandem promoter may promote the transcription of the nucleic acid sequence at different stages of growth of the cell or, in the case of fungal hosts, morphological different parts of the mycelia, or different cellular compartments during spore development in sporulating bacteria such as bacilli.

In the present invention, the promoter may be foreign to the coding sequence and/or to the host cell. A variant, hybrid, or tandem promoter of the present invention will be understood to be foreign to a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide even if the wild-type promoter is native to the coding sequence or to the host cell.

A variant, hybrid, or tandem promoter of the present invention has at least about 20%, preferably at least about 40%, more preferably at least about 60%, more preferably at least about 80%, more preferably at least about 90%, more preferably at least about 100%, even more preferably at least about 200%, most preferably at least about 300%, and even most preferably at least about 400% of the promoter activity of any promoter derived from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24 and defined earlier. The promoter activity is preferably determined as defined earlier. Most preferably, promoter activity is determined by mRNA analysis using Northern blot.

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DNA construct

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According to a second aspect, the invention provides a DNA construct comprising a promoter DNA sequence of the invention as defined in the former section operatively associated with a reporter gene conferring a selectable trait. The reporter gene can be any gene conferring a selectable trait to a suitable host. Preferably, the reporter gene is a selection marker gene.

"DNA construct" is defined herein as a nucleic acid molecule, either single or doublestranded, which is isolated from a naturally occurring gene or which has been modified to contain segments of nucleic acid combined and juxtaposed in a manner that would not otherwise exist in nature.

The term DNA construct is synonymous with the term expression cassette when the DNA construct contains a coding sequence or reporter gene and all the control sequences required for expression of the coding sequence or reporter gene. In the context of this application the term "DNA contruct" is interchangeably used with the term "isolated DNA construct" wherein both terms are contrued to be synonymous.

The DNA construct may comprise a selection marker gene, which permits easy selection of transformed host cells. In case the DNA construct comprises two selection marker genes, the skilled person will understand that these two selection marker genes are not identical: the first one associated with the promoter of the invention is used in the screening method of the invention and the second one present on the DNA construct allows a standard selection of transformed host cells.

The reporter gene is in operative association with the promoter DNA sequence of the invention such that the reporter gene can be expressed under the control of the promoter DNA sequence in a given host cell. The polypeptide encoded by the reporter gene may be native or heterologous to the host cell and/or to the promoter DNA sequence.

In this context "a" means "at least one". Therefore, the DNA construct comprises at least one reporter gene. The host may be co-transformed with at least two DNA constructs, one comprising the selection marker and another one comprising the promoter of the invention in association with a reporter gene.

Alternatively, and according to a more preferred embodiment, the reporter gene comprised in the DNA construct is a hybrid reporter gene comprising at least part of a first reporter gene with at least part of a second reporter gene, wherein the coding sequences of the first and second reporter genes are in-frame coupled to each other and wherein said hybrid reporter gene is operably linked to the promoter of the invention. The first and/or second reporter gene may be any gene conferring a selectable trait to a suitable host. A preferred hybrid reporter gene for fungi comprises the GFP gene and the phleomycin resistance gene (BLE) of *Streptoalloteichus hindustanis* (Drocourt *et al.*, NAR, 1990).

A selection marker or selectable marker is a gene, the product of which provides for biocide or viral resistance, resistance to heavy metals, prototrophy to auxotrophs, and the like. Suitable selectable markers for prokaryotic host cells include, but are not limited to, 25 kanamycin, neomycin, erythromycin and other MLS-type markers (macrolide-lincosamidestreptogramin B), chloramphenicol, ampicillin, tetracyclin, streptomycin and spectinomycin. Suitable markers for yeast host cells are ADE2, HIS3, LEU2, LYS2, MET3, TRP1, and URA3. Selectable markers for use in a flamentous fungal host cell include, but are not limited amdS (acetamidase), (ornithine carbamovltransferase), 30 to, argB bar (phosphinothricin acetyltransferase), hvgB (hvgromycin phosphotransferase), niaD (nitrate reductase), pyrG (orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase), sC (sulfate adenyltransferase), trpC (anthranilate synthase), as well as equivalents thereof. Marker conferring resistance against e.g. phleomycin, hygromycin B or G418 can also be used. Preferred for use in an Aspergillus cell are the amdS and pyrG genes of A. nidulans or A. oryzae and the bar gene 35

of Streptomyces hygroscopicus. The amdS marker gene is preferably used applying the

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technique described in EP 635 574B or WO 97/06261. A preferred selection marker gene is the *A.nidulans amdS* coding sequence fused to the *A.nidulans gpdA* promoter (EP635 574B). AmdS genes from other filamentous fungus may also be used (WO 97/06261).

According to another preferred embodiment, the reporter gene encodes a selectable marker for prokaryotic, yeast and/or filamentous fungal cells as decribed here above. 5 Alteratively, the reporter gene encodes a reporter protein like: beta-galactosidase, betaglucuronidase, aeguorin, Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) and variants thereof (Red, Cyan, Yellow- fluorescent protein), luciferase, lux, heme, beta-lactamase, or alkaline phosphatase. More preferably, the reporter gene is or comprises a gene encoding a fluorescent reporter protein such as, but not limited to GFP, YFP, and CFP (green, yellow and cyan fluorescent 10 proteins, respectively). Transformants will exhibit fluorescence and can be separated from non expressing clones using sensitive cell sorting technology (FACS, fluorescence activated cell sorting). An important advantage of this method is that plating of transformation mixtures is not required (which considerably increases the throughput of the screening procedure) and that positive clones can arrayed directly into an MTP format for 15 further automated processing. Alternatively, the reporter gene encodes a (trans)membrane protein or a cell wall protein to which antibodies can be raised. Transformants exhibiting said membrane protein can be separated from non expressing transformants using magnetic cell sorting technologies (MACS[®], Magnetic cell sorting, www.miltenyibiotec.com).

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Control elements

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The DNA construct may further comprise one or more control sequences in addition to the promoter DNA sequence, which direct the expression of the reporter gene in a suitable host cell under conditions compatible with the control sequences. Expression will be understood to include any step involved in the production of the polypeptide including, but not limited to, transcription, post-transcriptional modification, translation, post-translational modification, and secretion. One or more control sequences may be native to the reporter gene or to the host. Alternatively, one or more control sequences may be replaced with one or more control sequences foreign to the nucleic acid sequence for improving expression of the reporter gene in a host cell.

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The term "control sequences" is defined herein to include all components, including the promoter of the invention, which are necessary or advantageous for the expression of a coding sequence such as a reporter gene. Each control sequence may be native or foreign to the coding sequence encoding a polypeptide. Such control sequences include, but are not limited to, a leader, optimal translation initiation sequences (as described in Kozak, 1991, J. Biol. Chem. 266:19867-19870), polyadenylation sequence, propeptide sequence,

signal peptide sequence, upstream activating sequence, the promoter of the invention including variants, fragments, hybrid and tandem thereof and transcription terminator. At a minimum, the control sequences include transcriptional and translational stop signals and (part of) the promoter of the invention. The control sequences may be provided with linkers for the purpose of introducing specific restriction sites facilitating ligation of the control sequences with the coding sequence, such as a reporter gene, encoding a polypeptide.

The control sequence may be a suitable transcription terminator sequence, a sequence recognized by a host cell to terminate transcription. The terminator sequence is in operative association with the 3' terminus of the coding sequence encoding the polypeptide. Any terminator, which is functional in the host cell of choice may be used in the present invention.

The skilled person would know that 5' end and 3' end of a sequence is defined for each coding sequence. For a given terminator sequence and a given coding sequence, the skilled person would know how to operatively associate them together.

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Preferred terminators for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for *A. oryzae* TAKA amylase, *A. niger* glucoamylase, *A. nidulans* anthranilate synthase, *A. niger* alpha-glucosidase, trpC gene, and *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease.

Preferred terminators for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* enolase, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cytochrome C (CYC1), and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* glyceraidehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase. Other useful terminators for yeast host cells are described by Romanos et al, 1992, supra. The control sequence may also be a suitable leader sequence, a nontranslated region of an mRNA which is important for translation by the host cell. The leader sequence is in operative association with the 5' terminus of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide. Any leader sequence that is functional in the host cell of choice may be used in the present invention.

Preferred leaders for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for *A. oryzae* TAKA amylase, *A. nidulans* triose phosphateisomerase and *A. niger* glucoamylase.

Suitable leaders for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for 30 Saccharomyces cerevisiae enolase (ENO-1), Saccharomyces cerevisiae 3phosphoglycerate kinase, Saccharomyces cerevisiae alpha-factor, and Saccharomyces cerevisiae alcohol dehydrogenase and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (ADH2 and GAP).

The control sequence may also be a polyadenylation sequence, a sequence in operative association with the 3' terminus of the nucleic acid sequence and which, when Preferred polyadenylation sequences for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the

genes for A. oryzae TAKA amylase, A. niger glucoamylase, A. nidulans anthranilate synthase, Fusarium oxysporum trypsin-like protease, and A. niger alpha-glucosidase.

Useful polyadenylation sequences for yeast host cells are described by Guo and Sherman, 1995, Molecular Cellular Biology 15: 5983-5990.

It may also be desirable to add regulatory sequences, which allow the regulation of 5 the expression of the reporter gene relative to the growth of the host cell. Examples of regulatory systems are those which cause the expression of the reporter gene to be turned on or off in response to a chemical or physical stimulus, including the presence of a regulatory compound. Regulatory systems in prokaryotic systems include the lac, and trp operator systems of E. coli, and the spac, xyl, sacB, and citM systems in B. subtilis 10 (reviewed in Meima et al. (2004) Expression Systems in Bacillus. In "Protein Expression Technologies. Current status and future trends" (F. Baneyx, ed.), Horizon Bioscience, Wymondham, Norfolk, UK, pp. 199-252). Other promoters useful for controlled expression in bacilli are those induced under nutrient starvation conditions such as the Pho regulon and TnrA/GlnR system, which are under control of phosphate and nitrogen, respectively. In 15 yeast, the ADH2 system or GAL1 system may be used. In filamentous fungi, the TAKA alpha-amylase promoter, A. niger glucoamylase promoter, A. oryzae glucoamylase promoter, A. tubingensis endoxylanase (xInA) promoter, A. niger nitrate reductase (niaD) promoter, Trichoderma reesei cellobiohydrolase promoter and the A. nidulans alcohol and 20 aldehyde dehydrogenase (alcA and aldA, respectively) promoters as described in US 5,503,991) may be used as regulatory sequences. Other examples of regulatory sequences are those, which allow for gene amplification. In eukaryotic systems, these include the dihydrofolate reductase gene, which is amplified in the presence of methotrexate, and the metallothionein genes, which are amplified with heavy metals. In these cases, the nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide would be in operative 25 association with the regulatory sequence.

Endogenous regulatory sequence(s) present in the promoter DNA sequence of the invention may be removed, for example removal of *creA* binding sites (carbon catabolite repression as described earlier in EP673429B), change of pacC and areA (for pH and nitrogen regulation). In B. subtilis, carbon catabolite repression (CCR) involves binding of 30 the CcpA protein to the cre element. The cre element was used in combination with the xylose inducible xyl promoter for the development of an expression system, allowing for dual control of genes of interest (Bhavsar et al. (2001) Appl Environ Microbiol 67: 403).

Preferably, the DNA construct comprises a promoter DNA sequence from the invention, a reporter gene in operative association with said promoter DNA sequence and 35 translational control sequences such as:

- one translational termination sequence orientated in 5' towards 3' direction selected from the following list of sequences: TAAG, TAGA and TAAA, preferably TAAA, and/or

- one translational initiator coding sequence orientated in 5' towards 3'
 direction selected from the following list of sequences: GCTACCCCC; GCTACCTCC;
 GCTACCCTC; GCTACCTTC; GCTCCCCCC; GCTCCCTCC; GCTCCCCTC;
 GCTCCCTTC; GCTGCCCCC; GCTGCCTCC; GCTGCCCTC;
 GCTCCCCC; GCTTCCTCC; GCTTCCCTC; and GCTTCCTTC, preferably GCT TCC
 TTC, and/or
- one transcriptional initiator sequence selected from the following list of sequences: 5'-mwChkyCAAA-3'; 5'-mwChkyCACA-3' or 5'-mwChkyCAAG-3', using ambiguity codes for nucleotides: m (A/C); w (A/T); y (C/T); k (G/T); h (A/C/T), preferably 5'-CACCGTCAAA-3' or 5'-CGCAGTCAAG-3'.
- In the context of this invention, the term "translational initiator coding sequence" is defined as the nine nucleotides immediately downstream of the initiator or start codon of the open reading frame of a DNA coding sequence. The initiator or start codon encodes for the AA methionine. The initiator codon is typically ATG, but may also be any functional start codon such as GTG.

In the context of this invention, the term "translational termination sequence" is defined as the three or four nucleotides starting from the translational stop codon at the 3' end of the open reading frame or nucleotide coding sequence and oriented in 5' towards 3' direction.

In the context of this invention, the term "translational initiator sequence" is defined as the ten nucleotides immediately upstream of the initiator or start codon of the open reading frame of a DNA sequence coding for a polypeptide. The initiator or start codon encodes for the AA methionine. The initiator codon is typically ATG, but may also be any functional start codon such as GTG. It is well known in the art that uracil, U, replaces the deoxynucleotide thymine, T, in RNA.

Preferred control sequences for prokaryotes have already been described in EP 284 30 126 A.

The present invention also relates to recombinant expression vectors comprising a promoter of the present invention operatively associated with a reporter gene, and transcriptional and translational stop signals. The various reporter gene and control sequences described above may be joined together to produce a recombinant expression vector which may include one or more convenient restriction sites to allow for insertion or substitution of the promoter and/or reporter gene at such sites. Alternatively, fusion of

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reporter gene and promoter can be done by e.g. sequence overlap extension using PCR (SOE-PCR), as described inGene. 1989 Apr 15:77(1):51-9. Ho SN, Hunt HD, Horton RM, Pullen JK, Pease LR "Site-directed mutagenesis by overlap extension using the polymerase chain reaction") or by cloning using the Gateway™ cloning system (Invitrogen).

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The recombinant expression vector may be any vector capable of transforming a host cell. The choice of the vector will typically depend on the the compatibility of the vector with the host cell into which the vector is to be introduced. The vectors may be linear or closed circular plasmids. The vectors may be integrative or autonomously replicating vectors.

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The vector may be an autonomously replicating vector, i.e., a vector, which exists as an extrachromosomal entity, the replication of which is independent of chromosomal replication, e.g., a plasmid, an extrachromosomal element, a minichromosome, or an artificial chromosome. The autonomously replicating vector may contain any means for assuring self-replication. The vector may be one which, when introduced into the host cell, 15 is integrated into the genome and replicated together with the chromosome(s) into which it has been integrated. Furthermore, a single vector or plasmid or two or more vectors or plasmids which together contain the total DNA to be introduced into the genome of the host cell, or a transposon may be used. An example of an autonomously maintained cloning vector is a cloning vector comprising the AMA1-sequence. AMA1 is a 6.0-kb genomic DNA fragment isolated from A. nidulans, which is capable of Autonomous Maintenance in 20 Aspergillus (see e.g. Aleksenko and Clutterbuck (1997), Fungal Genet. Biol. 21: 373-397). Examples of autonomously replicating vectors useful for expression in Gam-positive bacteria such as B. subtilis and B. amyloliquefaciens are the staphylococcal vector pUB110 (McKenzie et al. (1986) Plasmid 15: 93) and the endogenous B. subtilis plasmids pTA1015, pTA1040 and pTA1060 and vectors derived thereof (e.g. pHB201; Bron et al. (1998) J 25 Biotechnol 64: 3).

The vectors of the present invention preferably contain (an) element(s) that permits stable integration of the vector into the host cell's genome or autonomous replication of the vector in the cell independent of the genome.

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For integration into the host cell genome, the vector may rely on the promoter sequence and/or reporter gene sequence or any other element of the vector for stable integration of the vector into the genome by homologous or non-homologous recombination. The vector may contain additional nucleic acid sequences for directing integration by homologous recombination into the genome of the host cell. The additional nucleic acid sequences enable the vector to be integrated into the host cell genome at a precise location(s) in the chromosome(s). To increase the likelihood of integration at a precise

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location, the integrational elements should preferably contain a sufficient number of nucleic acids, such as 20 to 50, preferably, 55 to 95, preferably 100 to 1,500 base pairs, preferably 400 to 1,500 base pairs, more preferably 800 to 1,500 base pairs, and most preferably at least 2kb, which are homologous to a DNA sequence in a predetermined target locus in the genome of the host cell. The integrational elements may be any sequence that is homologous with the target sequence in the genome of the host cell. Furthermore, the integrational elements may be non-encoding or encoding nucleic acid sequences. In order to promote targeted integration, the cloning vector is preferably linearized prior to transformation of the host cell. Linearization is preferably performed such that at least one but preferably either end of the cloning vector is flanked by sequences homologous to the target locus.

Preferably, the integrational elements in the expression vector, which are homologous to the target locus are derived from a highly expressed locus meaning that they are derived from a gene, which is capable of high expression level in the host cell. A gene capable of high expression level, i.e. a highly expressed gene, is herein defined as a gene 15 whose mRNA can make up at least 0.5% (w/w) of the total cellular mRNA, e.g. under induced conditions, or alternatively, a gene whose gene product can make up at least 1% (w/w) of the total cellular protein, or, in case of a secreted gene product, can be secreted to a level of at least 0.1 g/l (as described in EP 357 127 B1). A number of preferred highly 20 expressed fungal genes are given by way of example: the amylase, glucoamylase, alcohol dehydrogenase, xylanase, glyceraldehyde-phosphate dehydrogenase or cellobiohydrolase genes from Aspergilli or Trichoderma. Most preferred highly expressed genes for these purposes are a glucoamylase gene, preferably an A. niger glucoamylase gene, an A. oryzae TAKA-amylase gene, an A. nidulans gpdA gene, the locus of SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 and SEQ ID NO:29, preferably the A. niger locus of 25 SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 and SEQ ID NO:29 or a Trichoderma reesei cellobiohydrolase gene.

Alternatively, the vector may be integrated into the genome of the host cell by nonhomologous recombination.

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Alternatively and/or in combination with the embodiments described above, the DNA construct comprising the reporter gene in operative association with the promoter of the invention may be deleted from the host cell after the cell has been screened for production, preferably secretion, of a protein of interest in step (e) of the invention. Step (e) is described later. This enables the host cell to be used directly for the production of the protein of interest, without said host cell comprising a reporter gene and/or selectable marker gene. To enable deletion of the DNA construct of the invention, the DNA construct preferably

comprises both the reporter gene and a bi-directional selectable marker gene between DNA repeats. The DNA repeats allow deletion of the DNA construct by intra chromosomal homologous recombination. This method is analogous to the "MARKER-GENE FREE" approach as described in EP 0 635 574 B1.

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For autonomous replication, the vector may further comprise an origin of replication enabling the vector to replicate autonomously in the host cell in question. Examples of origins of replication for use in a yeast host cell are the 2 micron origin of replication, ARS1, ARS4, the combination of ARS1 and CEN3, and the combination of ARS4 and CEN6. The origin of replication may be one having a mutation which makes its functioning temperaturesensitive in the host cell (see, e.g., Ehrlich, 1978, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 75:1433).

More than one copy of the DNA construct of the present invention may be inserted into the host cell. This can be done, preferably by integrating into its genome copies of the DNA sequence, more preferably by targeting the integration of the DNA sequence at a highly expressed locus, preferably at a glucoamylase locus or at the locus of SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28 and SEQ ID NO:29. Alternatively, this can be done by including an amplifiable selectable marker gene with the nucleic acid sequence where cells containing amplified copies of the selectable marker gene, and thereby additional copies of the nucleic acid sequence, can be selected for by cultivating the cells in the presence of the appropriate selectable agent. To increase even more the number of copies of the DNA sequence to be over expressed the technique of gene conversion as described in WO98/46772 may be used.

The procedures used to ligate the elements described above to construct the recombinant expression vectors of the present invention are well known to one skilled in the art (see, e.g., Sambrook et al., 1989, supra).

Host cell

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The present invention further relates to recombinant host cells transformed with the DNA construct defined in the former section comprising a promoter DNA sequence of the present invention in operative association with a reporter gene. Preferably, the transformed host cell further comprises an additional DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence comprising a coding sequence originating from a DNA library from an organism suspected of being capable of producing one or more proteins with properties of interest.

Such cells can be advantageously used in an expression cloning method as described in the next section. An expression vector comprising a promoter DNA sequence of the present invention in operative association with a reporter gene is introduced into a

host cell. The host cell is further transformed with a DNA construct or expression vector comprising a DNA sequence comprising a coding sequence originating from a DNA library. Both DNA construct or expression vectors are either maintained as a chromosomal integrant or as a self-replicating extra-chromosomal vector as described earlier The choice of a host cell will to a large extent depend upon the organism wherein the DNA library has been made and/or upon the origin of the promoter DNA sequence used.

The host cell may be any microorganism. Preferably, the host cell is the same organism as the one wherein the DNA library has been prepared and/or as the one the promoter of the invention originates from as defined earlier in the specification. According to a preferred embodiment, the host cell is a prokaryote, or an eukaryote. According to a more preferred embodiment, the host cell useful in the methods of the present invention is a prokaryote, more preferably the prokaryote defined as source of promoter in the section promoter. More preferably, the prokaryotic host cell is a *Bacillus* host cell, preferably of the species *Bacillus Subtilis, Bacillus licheniformis* and/or *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.

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According to another more preferred embodiment, the host cell useful in the methods of the present invention is a fungus.

The host cell may be a wild type filamentous fungus host cell or a variant, a mutant or a genetically modified filamentous fungus host cell. In a preferred embodiment of the invention the host cell is a protease deficient or protease minus strain. This may be the 20 protease deficient strain Aspergillus oryzae JaL 125 having the alkaline protease gene named "alp" deleted (described in WO 97/35956 or EP 429 490), or the tripeptidylaminopeptidases (TPAP) deficient strain of A. niger, disclosed in WO 96/14404. Further, also host cell with reduced production of the transcriptional activator (prtT) as described in WO 01/68864 is contemplated according to the invention. Another specifically contemplated host strain is the Aspergillus oryzae BECh2, where the three TAKA amylase genes present 25 in the parent strain IF04177 have been inactivated. In addition, two proteases, the alkaline protease and neutral metalloprotease 11 have been destroyed by gene disruption. The ability to form the metabolites cyclopiazonic acid and kojic acid has been destroyed by mutation. BECh2 is described in WO 00/39322 and is derived from JaL228 (described in WO 98/12300), which again was a mutant of IF04177 disclosed in US 5,766, 912 as A1560. 30

Optionally, the filamentous fungal host cell may comprise an elevated unfolded protein response (UPR) compared to the wild type cell to enhance production abilities of a polypeptide of interest. UPR may be increased by techniques described in US2004/0186070A1 and/or US2001/0034045A1 and/or WO01/72783A2 and/or WO2005/123763. More specifically, the protein level of HAC1 and/or IRE1 and/or PTC2 has

been modulated, and/or the SEC61 protein has been engineered in order to obtain a host cell having an elevated UPR.

Alternatively, or in combination with an elevated UPR, the host cell may be genetically modified to obtain a phenotype displaying lower protease expression and/or protease secretion compared to the wild-type cell in order to enhance production abilities of a polypeptide of interest. Such phenotype may be obtained by deletion and/or modification and/or inactivation of a transcriptional regulator of expression of proteases. Such a transcriptional regulator is e.g. prtT. Lowering expression of proteases by modulation of prtT may be performed by techniques described in US2004/0191864A1 and in EP2005/055145.

Alternatively, or in combination with an elevated UPR and/or a phenotype displaying lower protease expression and/or protease secretion, the host cell may display an oxalate deficient phenotype in order to enhance the yield of production of a polypeptide of interest. An oxalate deficient phenotype may be obtained by techniques described in WO2004/070022A2 and/or WO2000/50576.

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Alternatively, or in combination with an elevated UPR and/or a phenotype displaying lower protease expression and/or protease secretion and/or oxalate deficiency, the host cell may display a combination of phenotypic differences compared to the wild cell to enhance the yield of production of the polypeptide of interest. These differences may include, but are not limited to, lowered expression of glucoamylase and/or neutral alpha-amylase A and/or neutral alpha-amylase B, alpha-1, 6transglucosidase, protease, and oxalic acid hydrolase. Said phenotypic differences displayed by the host cell may be obtained by genetic modification according to the techniques described in US2004/0191864A1.

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Alternatively, or in combination with phenotypes described here above, the efficiency of targeted integration of a nucleic acid construct into the genome of the host cell by homologous recombination, i.e. integration in a predetermined target locus, may preferably be increased by augmented homologous recombination abilities of the host cell. Such phenotype of the cell preferably involves a deficient *hdfA* or *hdfB* gene as described in WO2005/095624. WO2005/095624 discloses a preferred method to obtain a filamentous fungal cell comprising increased efficiency of targeted integration.

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More preferably, the host cell of the invention is selected from the following list: a *Bacillus*, a yeast and a filamentous fungus, preferably an *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium* or *Trichoderma* species. Even more preferably, the *Aspergillus* host cell is an *Aspergillus niger* or *Aspergillus sojae* or *Aspergillus oryzae* species.

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The present invention also relates to recombinant host cells, comprising more than one promoter DNA sequence of the present invention, each promoter being in operative association with a reporter gene. Such host cells may be advantageously used in an

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expression cloning method as described in the coming section. Bacterial cells may be transformed by a variety of methods including chemically induced competence (e.g. CaCl₂) or electroporation (Sambrook et al. (1989) "Molecular Cloning: a laboratory manual", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Cold Spring Harbor, New York), protoplast transformation (Chang and Cohen (1979) Mol Gen Genet 168: 111) and, in the case of some Bacillus species, natural competence (Spizizen (1958) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 44: 1072). Fungal cells may be transformed by a process involving protoplast formation, transformation of the protoplasts, and regeneration of the cell wall in a manner known per se. Suitable procedures for transformation of Aspergillus host cells are described in EP 238 023 and Yelton et al., 1984, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 81: 1470-1474. Suitable procedures for transformation of Aspergillus and other filamentous fungal host cells using Agrobacterium tumefaciens are described in e.g. Nat Biotechnol. 1998 Sep;16(9):839-42. Erratum in: Nat Biotechnol 1998 Nov;16(11):1074. Agrobacterium tumefaciens-mediated transformation of filamentous fungi. de Groot MJ, Bundock P, Hooykaas PJ, Beijersbergen AG. Unilever Research Laboratory Vlaardingen, The Netherlands. Suitable methods for transforming Fusarium species are described by Malardier et al., 1989, Gene 78: 147-156 and WO 96/00787. Yeast may be transformed using the procedures described by Becker and Guarente, In Abelson, J. N. and Simon, M. I., editors, Guide to Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology, Methods in Enzymology, Volume 194, pp 182-187, Academic Press, Inc., New York; Ito et al., 1983, Journal of Bacteriology 153: 163; and Hinnen et al., 1978, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 75: 1920. Transformation of prokaryotes may be perfored as described in EP 284 126A.

Method of expression cloning

According to a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for isolating a DNA sequence comprising a DNA sequence coding for a protein of interest in a host cell, said method comprises the steps of:

- (a) preparing a first DNA construct comprising a promoter DNA sequence operatively associated with a reporter gene conferring a selectable trait; said promoter DNA sequence being induced when the DNA construct is present in the host cell and when a protein of interest, preferably a secreted protein of interest, is produced by the host cell;
- (b) preparing a second DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence comprising a DNA sequence coding for a protein of interest originating from a DNA library from an organism suspected of being capable of producing one or more proteins of interest;
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(c) transforming a host cell with both DNA constructs prepared in (a) and (b);

(d) culturing all the transformed host cells obtained in (c) under conditions conducive to the production of the proteins of interest as present in the DNA library; and

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(e) screening for transformed host cells producing a protein of interest by analysis of the proteins produced in (d).

<u>Step (a)</u>

A first DNA construct is prepared, comprising a promoter DNA sequence operatively associated with a reporter gene conferring a selectable trait; said promoter DNA sequence being induced when the DNA construct is present in the host cell and when a protein of interest, preferably a secreted protein of interest, is produced by the host cell.

The promoter present in the first DNA construct is a promoter which is induced when a protein of interest, preferably a secreted protein of interest, is produced by a host cell.

In the present invention the term "induced" is defined as an increase in promoter activity of a promoter of the invention when a protein of interest is (over)produced, preferably 15 secreted, by a host cell, compared to the activity of the promoter when the protein of interest is not (over)produced in a corresponding control host cell under the same culture conditions. Preferably, when a protein of interest is (over)produced, preferably secreted, in a host cell, promoter activity is at least about 1.5-fold increased, more preferably at least 20 about two-fold, more preferably at least about three-fold, more preferably at least about fourfold, more preferably at least about five-fold, even more preferably at least about six-fold, even more preferably at least about eight-fold, even more preferably at least about ten-fold, even more preferably at least about twenty-fold, even more preferably at least about 50-fold and most preferably at least about 100-fold increased, compared to a corresponding control host cell wherein the protein of interest is not (over)produced under the same culture 25 conditions. More preferably, the increase in promoter activity is infinite, i.e. no promoter activity is detected or the promoter is inactive when the protein of interest is not (over)produced, whereas the promoter is induced when the protein of interest is (over)produced. Promoter activity is preferably determined as defined previously. Most preferably, promoter activity is determined by mRNA analysis using Northern blot. 30

Such a promoter can be identified by comparing gene expression profiles of cells producing the protein of interest with that of a control strain not producing said protein. Preferably, such expression profiles are compared using well-established DNA micro-array analyses. Alternatively, expression profiles can be compared using other methods known to the skilled person such as Northern blot or quantitative PCR analysis. A most preferred method to compare expression profiles is performed by first comparing

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expression profiles by DNA micro array analyses, followed by subsequent corroboration of the micro array results by Northern Blot. According to a preferred embodiment, the promoter is the promoter DNA sequence of the invention described under the section promoter.

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According to another preferred embodiment, when the host cell is a *Bacillus* cell, the promoter is derived from the following genomic DNA sequences as listed: *htrA* (SEQ ID NO:1) or *htrB* (SEQ ID NO:2). Preferably, the promoter DNA sequence is derived from the non coding part of one of these genomic DNA sequences situated upstream of the start codon or part of said genomic sequences situated upstream. More preferably, the promoter used is the DNA sequence of either SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

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According to another preferred embodiment, when the host cell is a filamentous fungal cell, the promoter is derived from the following genomic DNA sequences as listed: SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 23, or SEQ ID NO: 24. Preferably, the promoter DNA sequence is derived from the non coding part of one of these genomic DNA sequences situated upstream of the start codon or part of said genomic sequences situated upstream. More preferably, the promoter used is the DNA sequence, or derivative thereof, of either SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, or SEQ ID NO: 19.

The first DNA construct prepared in step (a) has already been described in the corresponding section "DNA construct" and preferably comprises a reporter gene conferring a selectable trait as described in the section "DNA construct".

The DNA construct prepared in step (b) comprises a DNA sequence comprising a

Step (b)

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DNA sequence coding for a protein of interest originating from a DNA library from an organism suspected of being capable of producing one or more proteins of interest. The organism suspected of producing one or more proteins of interest usually is a prokaryote or an eukaryote. Examples of preferred prokaryotes and eukaryotes have already been defined earlier in the specification in connection with the origin of the promoter of the invention. According to one preferred embodiment, the organism is a *Bacillus*, more preferably a *Bacillus* species as defined in the section promoter. According to another preferred embodiment, the organism is a fungus, of which most preferably a filamentous fungus.

The DNA construct prepared in step (b), preferably comprises regulatory sequences such as defined in the sections "DNA construct" and "Control elements".

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In the method according to the invention, the library of DNA fragments from an organism suspected of producing one or more proteins of interest can be a genomic library

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or a cDNA library. However, in the case of eukaryotic donors, preferably a cDNA library is used so as to avoid problems with recognition of promoters or splice signals in the fungal host organism. The cDNA library is preferably prepared from mRNA isolated from the source organism when grown under conditions conducive to the expression of the proteins of interest.

The method according to the invention can be applied to the isolation of DNA sequences coding for any protein or polypeptide of interest if there is an assay available for detection of the protein when expressed by the host cell.

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Step (c)

The identity of the host cell to be transformed with both DNA constructs has already been described under the section host cell. Methods of transformation have already been described in the same section. According to one embodiment, the host cell is simultaneously transformed with the constructs prepared in (a) and (b). Alternatively and according to another embodiment, the host cell is first transformed with the DNA construct prepared in step (a) and consecutively is transformed with the DNA construct prepared in step (b).

According to a preferred embodiment, the host cell is a prokaryote, preferably a *Bacillus* cell, more preferably a *Bacillus subtilis*, even more preferably a *Bacillus subtilis* deficient in the htrA gene, wherein at least part of the coding regions of the htrA gene have been deleted and/or replaced and/or wherein the non coding regions of the htrA gene are still present in the genome of said *Bacillus* cell, most preferably the *Bacillus subtilis* BV2003 is used (Hyyrylainen et al. (2001) *Mol Microbiol* **41**: 1159).

Alternatively or in combination with former preferred embodiment, the host cell is a *Bacillus* cell and the reporter gene encodes a fluorescence reporter protein as defined in the section DNA construct, most preferably GFP.

Alternatively or in combination with former preferred embodiment, when the host cell is a *Bacillus* cell, the promoter is derived from the genomic DNA sequences as presented in the following list: *htrA* (SEQ ID NO:1) or *htrB* (SEQ ID NO:2). Preferably, the promoter sequence is derived from the non coding part of one of these two genomic DNA sequences situated upstream of the start codon or part of said sequence situated upstream. More preferably, the promoter used is one derived from either SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2. According to a most preferred embodiment, the promoter used and the reporter gene used are either GFP in operative association with SEQ ID NO: 1 or GFP in operative association with SEQ ID NO: 2.

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According to another preferred embodiment, the organism is an eukaryote, more preferably a fungus, of which most preferably a filamentous fungus. Preferably, the filamentous fungus is an *Aspergillus, Penicillium* or *Trichoderma* species. Even more preferably, the *Aspergillus* host cell is an *Aspergillus niger* or *Aspergillus sojae* or *Aspergillus oryzae* species. A most preferred host cell is *A.niger*, preferably CBS513.88 or derivative thereof.

Alternatively or in combination with former preferred embodiment, the host cell is a filamentous fungal cell and the reporter gene encodes a fluorescence reporter protein as defined in the section DNA construct, most preferably GFP. Alternatively, the reporter gene encodes a selectable marker. More preferably, the reporter gene is a hybrid reporter gene of a fluorescent protein and a selectable marker. Most preferably, the hybrid reporter gene is a comprises GFP and the phleomycin resistance gene (BLE) of *Streptoalloteichus hindustanis* (Drocourt *et al.*, NAR, 1990).

Alternatively or in combination with the former preferred embodiment, when the host cell is a filamentous fungal cell, the promoter is derived from the genomic DNA sequences 15 as presented in the following list: SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24. Preferably, the promoter sequence is derived from the non coding part of one of the listed genomic DNA sequences situated upstream of the start codon or part of said sequence situated upstream. More preferably, the promoter used is one of those used in examples 3 to 7 and derived from either SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ 20 ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24. According to a most preferred embodiment, the promoter used and the hybrid reporter gene used are either GFP-BLE (SEQ ID NO: 61) in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 15, GFP-BLE in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 16, GFP-BLE in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 17, GFP-BLE in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 18, or GFP-BLE in 25 operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 19.

Step (d)

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After transformation of the host cells with both DNA constructs, all the obtained transformed host cells clones are cultured under conditions conducive to the production of the proteins of interest present in the DNA library. Depending on the assay required for detection of the protein of interest the transformed clones are propagated and stored as colonies on solid media such as agar plates or in liquid media, whereby the individual library clones are grown, stored and/or assayed in the wells of the microtiter plates.

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The skilled person will understand that the usual adaptations to cloning methods known in the art can equally be applied to the method of the present invention. The

adaptations include but are not limited to e.g. screening of pools of library clones, screening the same library for a number of different proteins of interest, as well as rescreening, reisolation and recloning of positive clones to ensure more accurate results.

A variety of methods are available to the skilled person for isolation of the DNA sequence encoding the protein of interest from the transformed host cell identified in the screening method, and for subsequent characterization of the isolated DNA sequence.

Step (e)

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Subsequent to step (d), the transformed host cells are screened for production, preferably secretion, of a protein of interest by analysis of the proteins produced. During step (e), one screens for transformed host cells producing, preferably secreting a protein of interest, by monitoring production-dependent, preferably secretion-dependent reporter expression induced via the promoter DNA sequence present in the first DNA construct.

- According to a preferred embodiment, when the host cell is a *Bacillus* cell, screening to identify transformed host cells producing, preferably secreting, a protein of interest by monitoring production-dependent, preferably secretion-dependent, reporter expression induced by the promoter DNA sequence present in the first DNA construct, is preferably performed using fluorescent based cell analysis assays, e.g. fluorescent activated cell scanning, fluorescent activated cell sorting (FACS) or fluorimetric analysis. More preferably, the host cell is a *Bacillus* cell comprising a first DNA construct, said DNA construct comprising a promoter such as SEQ ID NO: 1 or derivative thereof or SEQ ID NO: 2 or derivative thereof, said DNA construct further comprising a reporter gene encoding a fluorescent reporter and screening is performed using fluorescence based cell analysis assays. Even more preferably, the host cell is a *Bacillus* cell and the first DNA construct comprises:
 - the promoter DNA sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or derative thereof, in operative association with GFP, or
 - the promoter DNA sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 or derative thereof, in operative association with GFP
- 30 and screening is performed using FACS. Alternatively, or in combination with the former embodiment, screening may be performed using e.g. colorimetric assays or using selective culture conditions. The skilled person will understand that depending on the reporter gene used, the selective culture conditions should be chosen accordingly. Examples of selective culture conditions are, but are not limited to, the use of biocides, the use of antibiotics,
- limitation of at least one nutrient, prototrophy.

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According to another preferred embodiment, when the host cell is a filamentous fungal cell, screening to identify transformed host cells producing, preferably secreting, a protein of interest by monitoring production-dependent, preferably secretion-dependent, reporter expression induced by the promoter DNA sequence present in the first DNA constructof the invention, is preferably performed by cultivation under selective culture 5 conditions. The skilled person will understand that depending on the reporter gene used, the selective culture conditions should be chosen accordingly. Examples of selective culture conditions are, but are not limited to, the use of biocides, the use of antibiotics, limitation of at least one nutrient, prototrophy. Alternatively, or in combination with the former embodiment, screening may be performed using e.g. colorimetric, fluorimetric (like FACS) 10 or enzyme activity based assays. According to a more preferred embodiment, the host cell is a filamentous fungal cell comprising a first DNA construct of the invention and screening is performed using selective culture conditions. More preferably, the host cell is a filamentous fungal cell comprising a first DNA construct of the invention, said DNA construct comprising a promoter selected from the list of: SEQ ID NO:15 or derivative thereof, SEQ 15 ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:18 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:19 or derivative thereof, said DNA construct further comprising a reporter gene encoding a selectable marker and screening is performed using selective culture conditions. Even more preferably, the host cell is a filamentous fungal cell comprising a first DNA construct of the invention, said DNA construct comprising a 20 promoter selected from the list of: SEQ ID NO:15 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:18 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:19 or derivative thereof, said DNA construct further comprising a hybrid reporter gene such as SEQ ID NO: 61 and screening is performed using selective culture conditions. 25

According to another more preferred embodiment, the host cell is an *A.niger* cell comprising a first DNA construct of the invention and screening is performed using selective culture conditions. More preferably, the host cell is an *A.niger* cell comprising a first DNA construct of the invention, said DNA construct comprising a promoter selected from the list of: SEQ ID NO:15 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:19 or derivative thereof, said DNA construct further comprising a reporter gene encoding a selectable marker and screening is performed using selective culture conditions. Even more preferably, the host cell is an *A.niger* cell comprising a first DNA construct of the invention, said DNA construct further comprising a first DNA construct of the invention, said DNA construct further comprising a first DNA construct of the invention, said DNA construct comprising a promoter selected from the list of: SEQ ID NO:15 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, sell is an *A.niger* cell comprising a first DNA construct of the invention, said DNA construct comprising a promoter selected from the list of: SEQ ID NO:15 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:17 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:16

SEQ ID NO:18 or derivative thereof, SEQ ID NO:19 or derivative thereof, said DNA construct further comprising a hybrid reporter gene such as SEQ ID NO:61 and screening is performed using selective culture conditions. Even more preferably, the host cell is an *A.niger* cell and the first DNA construct comprises:

- hybrid reporter gene GFP-BLE (SEQ ID NO: 61) in operative association with promoter
 SEQ ID NO: 15, or
 - GFP-BLE in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 16, or derivative thereof, or
 - GFP-BLE in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 17, or derivative thereof,
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or

- GFP-BLE in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 18, or derivative thereof, or
- GFP-BLE in operative association with promoter SEQ ID NO: 19, or derivative thereof,

and screening is performed using selective culture conditions comprising an antibiotic, preferably phleomycin as selective agent.

The DNA sequences isolated by the screening method of the invention as described above are used to produce, or to improve the production of, a protein of interest encoded by the DNA sequence. Advantageously, the transformed host cell as isolated in the above described screening method is used directly in a process for the production of the protein of interest by culturing the transformed host cell under conditions conducive to the production, preferably secretion of the protein of interest and, optionally, recovering the protein.

According to a preferred embodiment, the host cell is enabled to be used directly for the production of the protein of interest, without said host cell comprising a reporter gene and/or selectable marker gene. The DNA construct comprising the reporter gene in operative association with the promoter of the invention is therefore deleted from the host cell after the cell has been screened for production, preferably secretion, of a protein of interest. To enable deletion of the DNA construct of the invention, the DNA construct preferably comprises both the reporter gene and a bi-directional selectable marker gene between DNA repeats. The DNA repeats allow deletion of the DNA construct by intra chromosomal homologous recombination. This method is analogous to the "MARKER-GENE FREE" approach as described in EP 0 635 574 B1.

Often the initial transformed host cell isolated in the screening method of the invention will have an expression level which is satisfactory for screening purposes but which can be significantly improved for economic production purposes. To this end, the DNA sequence is inserted into an expression vector which is subsequently used to transform a suitable host cell. In the expression vector the DNA sequence is operably linked

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to appropriate expression signals, such as a promoter, optionally a signal sequence and a terminator, which are capable of directing the expression of the protein in the host organism as defined in the sections "DNA construct" and "control elements". A suitable host cell for the production of the protein may be either a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell, preferably a eubacterium, yeast or filamentous fungus. Preferred bacterial host cells are selected from the genus *Bacillus* as defined in the section promoter. According to another preferred embodiment, the host cell is a yeast or a filamentous fungus as already defined in the section "host cell". Preferred yeast host cells are selected from the group consisting the genera *Saccharomyces, Kluyveromyces, Yarrowia, Pichia,* and *Hansenula*. Preferred filamentous fungua host cells are selected from the same genera listed above as preferred host cells for the screening method. More preferably, the filamentous fungus is an *Aspergillus, Penicillium* or *Trichoderma* species. Even more preferably, the *Aspergillus* host cell is an *Aspergillus niger* or *Aspergillus sojae* or *Aspergillus oryzae* species. A most preferred host cell is *A.niger*, preferably CBS513.88 or derivative thereof.

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The suitable host cell is transformed with the expression vector by any of the various protocols available to the skilled person. The transformed host cell is subsequently used in a process for producing the protein of interest by culturing the transformed host cell under conditions conducive to the expression of the DNA sequence encoding the protein, and optionally recovering the protein.

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Preferably, the protein of interest is an enzyme.

Accordingly, the invention relates to a use of the promoter of the invention in an expression cloning method.

the promoter of the invention may be operatively associated with any coding sequence in a DNA construct or expression vector all defined in former sections. Such DNA contruct or

expression vector may be introduced into any host cell as defined in "host cell" section and

used for expression of a given valuable compound. Examples of such valuable compound are, but are not limited to, a metabolite or a polypeptide. Preferably, the coding sequence

The invention further relates to other use of the promoter of the invention. Preferably,

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operatively associated with the promoter of the invention encodes the valuable compound. Alternatively, and according to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the coding sequence operatively associated with the promoter of the invention is involved in the production of the valuable compound.

Alternatively and according to another preferred use of the promoter of the invention, the promoter of the present invention is incorporated into an inactivation or replacement construct, transformed into a given host cell and used to inactivate or replace a target gene. The present invention is further illustrated by the following examples.

Examples Materials and methods

5 General procedures

Standard molecular cloning techniques such as DNA isolation, gel electrophoresis, enzymatic restriction modifications of nucleic acids, Northern analyses, *E. coli* transformation, etc, were performed as described by Sambrook et al. (2001) "Molecular Cloning: a laboratory manual, 3^{d} edition", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Cold Spring Harbor, New York and Innis et al. (1990) "PCR protocols, a guide to methods and applications" Academic Press, San Diego. Synthetic oligo deoxynucleotides were obtained from Invitrogen (Breda, The Netherlands). Room temperature is 20 degrees Celsius ± 2 degrees Celsius.

15 Transformation of Aspergillus niger.

Transformation of *A. niger* was performed according to the method described by Tilburn, J. et al. (1983) Gene 26, 205-221 and Kelly, J. & Hynes, M. (1985) EMBO J., 4, 475-479 with the following modifications:

Spores were germinated and cultivated for 16 hours at 30 degrees Celsius in a
shake flask placed in a rotary shaker at 300 rpm in *Aspergillus* minimal medium (100ml). *Aspergillus* minimal medium contains per litre: 6 g NaNO₃, 0.52 g KCl, 1.52 g KH₂PO₄,
1.12 ml 4 M KOH, 0.52 g MgSO₄.7H₂O, 10 g glucose, 1 g casaminoacids, 22 mg ZnSO₄.7H₂O, 11 mg H₃BO₃, 5 mg FeSO₄.7H₂O, 1.7 mg CoCl₂.6H₂O, 1.6 mg CuSO₄.5H₂O, 5 mg MnCl₂.2H₂O, 1.5 mg Na₂MoO₄.2H₂O, 50 mg EDTA, 2 mg riboflavin, 2
mg thiamine-HCl, 2 mg nicotinamide, 1 mg pyridoxine-HCL, 0.2 mg panthotenic acid, 4 g biotin, 10 ml Penicillin (5000 IU/ml) Streptomycin (5000 UG/ml) solution (Gibco).

- Novozym 234TM (Novo Industries) instead of helicase was used for the preparation of protoplasts;

after protoplast formation (60-90 minutes), KC buffer (0.8 M KCl, 9.5 mM citric acid, pH
 6.2) was added to a final volume of 45 ml, the protoplast suspension was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm at 4 degrees Celsius in a swinging-bucket rotor. The protoplasts were resuspended in 20 ml KC buffer and subsequently 25 ml of STC buffer (1.2 M sorbitol, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM CaCl₂) was added. The protoplast suspension was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm at 4 degrees Celsius in a swinging-bucket rotor, washed in 20 ml KC buffer (1.2 M sorbitol, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM CaCl₂) was added. The protoplast suspension was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm at 4 degrees Celsius in a swinging-bucket rotor, washed in

35 STC-buffer and resuspended in STC-buffer at a concentration of 10E8 protoplasts/ml;

- to 200 microliter of the protoplast suspension, the DNA fragment, dissolved in 10 microliter TE buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 0.1 mM EDTA) and 100 microliter of PEG solution (20% PEG 4000 (Merck), 0.8 M sorbitol, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM CaCl₂) was added;

after incubation of the DNA-protoplast suspension for 10 minutes at room temperature, 5 -1.5 ml PEG solution (60% PEG 4000 (Merck), 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM CaCb) was added slowly, with repeated mixing of the tubes. After incubation for 20 minutes at room temperature, suspensions were diluted with 5 ml 1.2 M sorbitol, mixed by inversion and centrifuged for 10 minutes at 4000 rpm at room temperature. The protoplasts were resuspended gently in 1 ml 1.2 M sorbitol and plated onto solid selective regeneration 10 medium consisting of either Aspergillus minimal medium without riboflavin, thiamine.HCL, nicotinamide, pyridoxine, panthotenic acid, biotin, casaminoacids and glucose. In case of acetamide selection the medium contained 10 mM acetamide as the sole nitrogen source and 1 M sucrose as osmoticum and C-source. Alternatively, protoplasts were plated onto PDA (Potato Dextrose Agar, Oxoid) supplemented with 1-50 microgram/ml phleomycin and 15 1M sucrose as osmosticum. Regeneration plates were solidified using 2% agar (agar No.1, Oxoid L11). After incubation for 6-10 days at 30 degrees Celsius, conidiospores of transformants were transferred to plates consisting of Aspergillus selective medium (minimal medium containing acetamide as sole nitogen source in the case of acetamide selection or PDA supplemented with 1-50 microgram/ml phleomycin in the case of 20 phleomycin selection) with 2% glucose and 1.5% agarose (Invitrogen) and incubated for 5-10 days at 30 degrees Celsius. Single transformants were isolated and this selective purification step was repeated once upon which purified transformants were stored.

25 Aspergillus niger microtiterplate fermentation and sampling

To obtain spores of *A. niger*, mycelium was transferred to microtiterplates filled with 150 microliter solid PDA medium (Potato Dextrose Agar, Oxoid), prepared according to the supplier's instructions. After growth for 3-7 days at 30 degrees Celsius (static) spores had formed. Subsequently 100 microliter liquid fermentation medium (70 g/l glucose.H2O, 25 g/l peptone (from casein), 12.5 g/l yeast extract (Difco), 2 g/l K₂SO₄, 1 g/l KH₂PO₄, 0.5 g/l MgSO₄.7H₂O, 0.03 g/l ZnCL₂, 0.02 g/l CaCL₂, 9 mg/l MnSO₄.H₂O, 3 mg/l FeSO₄.7H₂O, adjusted to pH 5.6 with 4 N H₂SO₄), was added to each well. The fermentation medium was pipetted up and down 20 times to isolate the spores in the medium. The inoculated fermentation medium was transferred to another microtiterplate and incubated at 34 degrees Celsius, 550 rpm and 80% humidity for 6 days in an orbital microtiterplate shaker

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(Infors HT). On day 6 supernatants were collected and used for detection of secreted proteins.

Mass spectrometry analysis

Supernatants were ultra-filtrated by centrifugal force on an Ultracel filtration plate 5 (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA). Ultra-filtration was performed according to the protocol provided by the manufacturer. To the ultra-filtrated supernatants 10 microliter 200mM ammoniumbicarbonate, pH 7,8 (Riedel-de Haen AG, Seelze, Germany) and 1 microliter 250 microgram per ml trypsin (Worthington, Lakewood, NJ, USA) were added. The supernatants were digested for 3 hours at 37 degrees Celsius. The digested supernatants were mixed in a 1:1 ratio with 10 milligram per ml recrystallized alpha-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid (?CHCA) (Laser Bio Labs, Sophia-Antipolis Cedex, France) solution; from these mixtures 1 microliter was spotted on the MALDI target. The spotted samples were analyzed with MALDI MS and MALDI MS/MS on a vMALDI LTQ mass spectrometer (Thermo electron, Orlando, 15 FL, USA).

The obtained MS/MS spectra, converted to peptide sequences, were compared to available protein sequences in pre-constructed FASTA protein databases, to identify individual enzymes.

20 **RNA** isolation

Aspergillus niger mycelium formed on 20ml liquid selective regeneration medium (6 g/I NaNO3, 0.52 g/I KCI, 1.52 g/I KH2PO4, 0.25 g/I KOH, 0.52 g/I MgSO4.7H2O, 22 mg/I ZnSO₄.7H₂O, 11 mg/l H₃BO₃, 5 mg/l FeSO₄.7H₂O, 1.7 mg/l CoCl₂.6H₂O, 1.6 mg/l CuSO₄.5H₂O, 5 mg/l MnCl₂.2H₂O, 1.5 mg/l Na₂MoO₄.2H₂O, 50 mg/l EDTA, 341 g/l sucrose, 10 ml Penicillin (5000 IU/ml) Streptocmycin (5000 UG/ml) solution (Gibco)) in a petridish was harvested, washed with demineralized water and squeezed between paper towels to remove excessive water. Mycelium was frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen and grinded to a fine powder using mortar and pestle. The resulting powder was transferred to a sterile 50 ml tube and weighed upon which for every 1-1.2 g of ground mycelium 10 ml TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) was added (max. 25 ml per tube). The mycelial powder was immediately solubilized by vigorous mixing (vortexing, 1 min.), followed by 5 min room temperature incubation with occasional mixing. 0.2 (original TRIzol) volumes of chloroform (thus 2 ml for every 10 ml TRIzol used originally) was added, vortexed and left at room temperature for 10 min. Subsequently, the mixture was centrifuged at 4 degrees Celsius, 6000 g for 30 minutes. The top aqueous phase was transferred to a fresh tube and total RNA was precipitated by addition of 0.5 (original TRIzol) volumes of 100% isopropyl alcohol (thus 5 ml

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of isopropyl alcohol for every 10 ml TRIzol used originally). After 10 minutes precipitation at room temperature, the RNA was recovered by centrifugation for 30 minutes at 6000 g. Upon removal of supernatant, the RNA pellet was rinsed with one (original TRIzol) volume of 70% ethanol. After removal of the ethanol, the RNA pellet was air dried. The dried RNA pellet was dissolved in 3 ml GTS (100 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 4 M guanidium thiocyanate, 0.5 % sodium lauryl sarcosinate) buffer. Additional clean-up of the RNA was performed using Rneasy Maxi Kit (Qiagen) according to suppliers manual. 10 microliter of RNA solution was used to determine quality and concentration of nucleic acids.

10 Aspergillus niger strains

A. niger WT-1: This A. niger strain is CBS513.88 comprising deletions of the genes encoding glucoamylase (glaA), fungal amylase and acid amylase. A. niger WT 1 was constructed by using the "MARKER-GENE FREE" approach as described in EP 0 635 574 B1. In this patent it is extensively described how to delete *qlaA* specific DNA sequences in the genome of CBS 513.88. The first procedure resulted in a MARKER-GENE FREE ? glaA recombinant A. niger CBS 513.88 strain, possessing finally no foreign DNA sequences at all. Subsequently, the genes encoding fungal amylase and acid amylase were deleted from

Vectors used for cloning of the desired constructs as depicted in figures 7 to 9 and 11 to 14 contain backbone features previously described in WO 99/32617.

the genome of A.niger WT-1 by the method described in EP 0 635 574 B1.

A. niger WT-GFP: This A. niger strain was obtained by transformation of A. niger WT-1 with the expression vector pGBFINGFP-2 depicted in figure 7 containing the gene coding for the well-known Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP))(Chalfie, M et al., Science (1994) 263(5148): 802-805) driven by the glucoamylase promoter. After purification on selective medium, a single copy integrant was selected based on PCR analysis.

A. niger WT-PHY: This A. niger strain was obtained by transformation of the A.niger WT-1 with the expression vector pGBFIN-32 depicted in figure 8 containing the phytase gene PHY (identical to FytA previously decribed in WO 99/32617) driven by the glucoamylase promoter. After purification on selective medium, a single copy integrant was selected based on PCR analysis.

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A. niger WT-PHY-2: This A. niger strain was obtained by transformation of th A.niger WT-1 with the expression vector pGBFIN-32 depicted in figure 8 containing the phytase gene PHY (identical to FytA previously decribed in WO 99/32617) driven by the glucoamylase promoter. After purification on selective medium, a multy copy integrant was selected based on PCR analysis.

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A.niger WT-vector: This A. niger strain was obtained by transformation of the A. niger WT-1 strain with empty control vector pGBFIN-40, depicted in figure 9. The empty control vector pGBFIN-40 was constructed by XhoI digestion of pGBFIN-32 depicted in figure 8, and religation of the largest fragment, thereby removing the glucoamylase promoter and the 5' part

of phytase gene PHY. A single copy integrant was selected by PCR analysis. 5

Example 1

Construction of Bacillus reporter plasmids and reporter strains.

1.1 Construction of reporter plasmids pPhtrA-qfp-amyE and pPhtrB-qfp-amyE 10

First, reporter plasmid pPhtrA-gfp-amyE was constructed as follows. The gene encoding the optimized version of GFP, gfpmut-1 (P.Cormack, R.H.Valdivia, and S.Falkow, 1996; FACS-optimized mutants of the green fluorescent protein (GFP), Gene 173, 33.), was amplified by PCR, using pSG1151 (P.J.Lewis and A.L.Marston, 1999; GFP vectors for 15 controlled expression and dual labelling of protein fusions in *Bacillus subtilis*, Gene 227, 101.) as template DNA, with the following primers: RN-lacZ-rv (SEQ ID NO: 3), GTGAGCGGATAACAATTTCACACAGG; and gfp-terminator-rv,(SEQ ID NO: 4) GTGGCTCAGCTTTTTTAAGGAAGGGAGGCTCTCACCTCCCTTCCCTTTATTTGTAGAGC TCATCCATGCC, resulting in Kpnl and Bpu11011 (in bold) sites up- and downstream afpmut-1, respectively. The 913 bp PCR product was ligated in pDL (containing 20 homologous flanking regions of the *amyE* locus for site specific recombination, (G.Yuan and S.L.Wong, 1995: Regulation of groE expression in Bacillus subtilis: the involvement of the sigma A-like promoter and the roles of the inverted repeat sequence (CIRCE), J. Bacteriol. 177, 5427), using the KpnI and Bpu1101I sites, resulting in pGFP-amyE. The promoter of htrA (P_{htrA})(SEQ ID NO: 1) was amplified by PCR using chromosomal DNA of B. subtilis 25 168 (Bacillus Genetic Stock Center ID:1A1) as template DNA. Primers used were: PhtrAfw,(SEQ ID NO: 5) CGTGAGGTACCGGCTTCTGTTTCTGCC; and Phtr-rv,(SEQ ID NO: 6) CATCACGAAGCTTATCCATCATGTTCACTCCG, introducing KpnI and HindIII sites (in bold), respectively. After digestion with Kpn1 and Hind3, the 531bp PCR product was ligated into pGFP-amyE, upstream the gfp gene resulting in reporter plasmid pPhtrA-gfp-amyE. A 30 map of this plasmid is depicted in figure 1. Plasmid pPhtrB-gfp-AmyE was constructed in a similar way as described above. The primers used for the amplifacion of the promoter of (SEQ ID NO 2) PhtrB-fw (SEQ ID NO 7) htrB (P_{htrB}) were GACC**GGTACC**TCAGGATCTTTCGCC PhtrA-rv (SEQ ID NO and 8) GGCCATCAAGCTTATAATCCATGTTCTTACACTCC.

1.2 Construction of the Bacillus reporter strains VT210A and VT210B

The resulting plasmids pPhtrA-gfp-amyE and pPhtrB-gfp-amyE were introduced into B. subtilis DB104, a DaprE, DnprE double mutant (F.Kawamura and R.H.Doi, 1984; Construction of a Bacillus subtilis double mutant deficient in extra cellular alkaline and 5 neutral proteases, J. Bacteriol. 160, 442). Chloramphenicol resistant transformants were checked for site-specific integration by double crossover at the amyE locus by PCR on chromosomal DNA. To reduce negative feedback regulation by HtrA of P_{btrA}, (D.Noone, A.Howell, R.Collery, and K.M.Devine, 2001; YkdA and YvtA, HtrA-like serine proteases in 10 Bacillus subtilis, engage in negative auto regulation and reciprocal cross-regulation of ykdA and yvtA gene expression, J. Bacteriol. 183, 654) the new strain was transformed with chromosomal DNA of B. subtilis BV2003, which has a disrupted htrA gene by integration of pMutin2 (H.L.Hyyrylainen, A.Bolhuis, E.Darmon, L.Muukkonen, P.Koski, M.Vitikainen, M.Sarvas, Z.Pragai, S.Bron, J.M.van Dijl, and V.P.Kontinen, 2001; A novel two-component regulatory system in Bacillus subtilis for the survival of severe secretion stress, Mol. 15 Microbiol. 41, 1159). Transformants were selected for erythromycin resistance and checked by PCR on chromosomal DNA for htrA disruption. The obtained strains were designated VT200A and VT200B.

In order to increase transformation efficiency of the VT200A strain, a BsuMR disruption construct was designed. The BsuMR system is formed by an operon consisting 20 of three genes, ydiR, ydiS and ydiA, of which each is essential for BsuMR functioning (P.J.Lewis and A.L.Marston, 1999; GFP vectors for controlled expression and dual labeling of protein fusions in Bacillus subtilis, Gene 227,101). Flanking region 1 (flr1), a 756 bp region of ydiR was amplified using the following primers: flrBsu1F, (SEQ ID NO 9) 25 GAAAGATTGTTTCAGAAGCC; and frl1BsuR, (SEQ ID NO 10) ACAGCGTTGGGATCCAAGCCCTTCCATTTTGGACATTTGG and chromosomal DNA of *B. subtilis* as a template. The spectinomycin resistance marker was amplified using pDG1726 (A.M.Guerout-Fleury, K.Shazand, N.Frandsen, and P.Stragier, 1995; Antibioticresistance cassettes for Bacillus subtilis, Gene 167, 335) as template DNA and with the following primers: specBsu-F, (SEQ ID NO 30 11) GGGCTTGGATCCCAACGCTGTCGACGTTGTAAAACGACGG; and specBsu-R, (SEQ ID NO 12) CGCATAGCTTTCCGGTCGCCGCAGCTATGACCATGATTACGC. The 1319 bp PCR product and the flrBsu1 fragment were used in a second PCR in which both fragments served as one template upon recombination of their homologous ends introduced by primers flrBsu1-R and specBsu-F (in bold). Using primers flrBsu1-F and specBsu-R, a 35 2075 bp PCR fragment, flr1-spec^r, was obtained, which was sub cloned in pCR-XL-TOPO

(Invitrogen) resulting in pCT-XL-TOPO-flr1-spec. Flanking region 2, a 739 bp region covering 24 bp of the 3' end of ydiS (encoding a DNA endonuclease) and a large part of the adjacent ydiA (unknown function), was amplified using primer flrBsu2-F, (SEQ ID NO 13) GATGATTCGTCTTTTTGTAGTG: and primer flrBsu2-R. (SEQ ID NO 14) CGATCAACATATGTGTTCACG and chromosomal DNA of *B. subtilis* as a template. The PCR product was cloned in pCR-XL-TOPO resulting in pCR-XL-TOPO-flr2. Making use of the multiple cloning site of the pCR-XL-TOPO vector, flr1-spec^r was restricted from pCR-XL-TOPO-flr1 using XhoI and NsiI and ligated into pCR-XL-TOPO-flr2, digested with XhoI and Pstl (compatible to Nsil). This resulted in the deletion construct pTOPO-flr1-spec^r-flr2, which was introduced into strain VT200A. Spectinomycin resistant transformants were checked for the ydiS deletion by PCR on chromosomal DNA. The obtained, final reporter strains were designated VT210A and VT210B and used for further experiments. A general outline of the construction of these strains is depicted in figure 2.

15 **1.3 Construction of expression vectors pUBnpr2 and pUBBAG:**

The construction of plasmid pUB110 and its sequence was described before (McKenzie T., Hoshino T., and Sueoka, N. 1986. The nucleotide sequence of pUB110; some salient features in relation to replication and its regulation. *Plasmid* **15**: 93-103). Cloning of the *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* a-amylase gene *amy*Q (Genbank accession number J 01542) in pUB110 lead to plasmid pKTH10 as described before (Palva, I. 1982. Molecular cloning of the alpha-amylase gene of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and its expression in *B. subtilis*. *Gene* **19**: 81-87).

Cloning of the neutral protease gene *npr* (Genbank accession number K 02497) and ß-glucanase gene *bag* (Genbank accession number M15674) both from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* into vector pUB110 was performed essentially according to the method used for the cloning of *amyQ*, resulting in plasmids pUBnpr2 and pUBBAG as depicted in figures 3 and 4.

1.4 Transformation of expression constructs pKTH10, pUBnpr2 and pUBBAG into 30 Bacillus reporter strain VT210A:

Transformation of *Bacillus subtilis* strain VT210A was essentially performed as described before making use of the natural competence of this organism (Anagnostopoulos, C. and Spizizen, J. 1961. Requirements for transformation in *Bacillus subtilis*. *J. Bacteriology* **81**: 741-746). After DNA incubation the cells were spread on 2 x TY agar containing 0.1% starch and the antibiotic kanamycin (20 µg/ml) as a selective agent for transformation. Plates were incubated over night at 37° C. When plasmid pKTH10 was

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involved in transformation the colonies were covered with a lugol solution to detect the amylase secreting cells.

Example 2

The plasmids pUB110 (empty control vector) and pKTH10 (encoding Bacillus

Analysis of secretion stressed cells by fluorescent activated cell assays

2.1 Selection of secretion stressed cells by fluorescence activated cell sorting:

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amyloliquefaciens a-amylase gene amyQ) were used in a ratio of 1:20 for cotransformation of Bacillus subtilis strain VT210A. One part of the cells was spread on 10 selective TY agar plates, and to the other part 2 x TY broth containing kanamycin, was added and the cells were cultivated over night. The separate plasmids were transformed as well, performing the same operations as for the co-transformation. The next day, cultures were analyzed for GFP fluorescence on a flow cytometer type FACS (Mo-Flo of Dakocytomation) by a skilled operator. A blue laser of 80 mWatt, and 488nm was used. A typical 15 FACS experiment comprised analysis of 20.000 events (cells). First, fluorescence signals of cells of VT210A, pUB110 (no secretion stress) and of VT210A, pKTH10 (secretion stress due to overproduction of the alpha-amylase AmyQ) were analyzed separately (figures 5A and 5B) and as a mix (figure 5C). On basis of these results a cell-sorting limit was manually set (dashed line in figure 5D), such that cells demonstrating GFP fluorescence higher than 20 the cell-sorting limit, were sorted. The co-transformation culture was applied to the flow cytometer and sorted cells were collected in a tube. To verify that the sorted fluorescent population had been enriched for alpha-amylase secreting cells, different dilutions of the collected cells were spread on selective agar containing starch. The same was done with the original overnight input culture, which was not sorted by FACS. After growth, the 25 colonies were covered by a lugol solution to visualize halo formation caused by alphaamylase activity. As shown in table 1, about 90% of the sorted cells indeed secreted alphaamylase, whereas in the input culture only 0.5 - 0.7% of the cells secreted alpha-amylase. This result clearly demonstrates the powerful selection tool of the present invention by isolation of protein secreting cells using discrimination in fluorescent signal between normal 30

cells and cells stressed by secretion.

Used cells	Number of cfu	Number of amy⁺	Dilution	% amy⁺
Pre-FACS of over night grown co-	>2000	14	10 ⁻⁴	< 0.7
transformation	600	3	10 ⁻⁵	0.5

Sorted cells of over night grown co-	111	104	10 ⁻¹	93.7
transformation	9	8	10 ⁻²	88.9

 Table 1: enrichment for amy+ colony forming units after flow cytometry.

2.2 Selection of secretion stressed cells by fluorescent cell scanning:

The plasmids pUB110 (empty control vector) and pKTH10 (encoding *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* a-amylase gene *amyQ*) were transformed separately to *Bacillus subtilis* strain VT210B. One part of the cells was spread on selective TY agar plates, and to the other part 2 x TY broth containing kanamycin, was added and the cells were cultivated over night. Cultures were analysed by a skilled operator on a flow cytometer (Coulter Epics XL-MCL, Beckman Coulter). A typical experiment comprised analysis of 20.000 events (cells). Fluorescent signal was detected using a FITC-filter and setting of the photo multiplier voltage was between 700 and 800 Volts. The difference in fluorescent signal between the

2.3 Selection for secretion stressed VT210A cells using a fluorimeter:

normal cells and cells stressed by secretion is depicted in figure 6.

Transformed reporter strain cells were inoculated in 2 xTY broth in the presence of kanamycin and grown over night at 37°C. The DNA's used for transformation were equal amounts of the plasmids pUB110, pKTH10, pUBnpr2 and pUBBAG. After growth to stationary phase the cultured cells of the four transformations were divided 8-fold in equal volumes in a 96 well micro titer plate format. The wells were analyzed for fluorescence in a fluorimeter (Molecular Devices, type Spectra MAX Gemini). Excitation is at 490 nm, emission at 510 nm, and cutoff at 495 nm. A standard t-Test assuming unequal variances was performed. Table 2 demonstrates that non-stressed cells (pUB110) were distinguished from the stressed cells (pKTH10, pUBnpr2 and pUBBAG) by a clear significant (P two-tail < 0.05) difference in fluorescent signal.

	pUB110 cells	Ratio
pKTH10 cells	P = 1,05899E-13	7,84
pUBnpr2 cells	P = 4,63415E-11	1,58
pUBBAG cells	P = 7,17216E-14	1,77

Table 2t-Test assuming unequal variances.Pvalues are given for empty host cells (pUB110)versus secretion stressed (pKTH10, pUBnpr2, pUBBAG) cells.

The ratio expresses the mean (n=8) fluorescent value of stressed cells over the mean (n=8) fluorescent value of empty host cells.

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Example 3

Genome-wide expression analyses of *A. niger* to identify secretion-induced promoters

Genome-wide expression analyses were performed to identify promoter sequences 5 that are highly expressed in A. niger WT-PHY, and show no or low expression in A.niger WT-GFP, A.niger WT-vector and A. niger WT-1. To simulate future application experiments protoplasts were obtained of A. niger WT-1, A. niger WT-GFP, A. niger WT-PHY and Α. niger WT-vector strains. An amount of 20 ml liquid selective regeneration medium supplemented with 50 mg/l phleomycin (Invitrogen) in case of A. niger WT-GFP, A. niger 10 WT-PHY and A. niger WT-vector, was inoculated in a petri dish with 100 microliter 10E7/ml protoplasts. After a growth period of 3 days at 30 degrees Celsius (static), a mycelial pellet had formed at the surface of the liquid medium which was used for total RNA isolation. cDNA synthesis, labelling of the cDNA and hybridisation on Affymetrix A. niger GeneChips[™] 15 was performed according to suppliers protocol. Subsequent expression analysis resulted in identification of 5 genes that had an expression level in the A. niger WT-PHY strain of at least 8.5 times the basal expression level in A. niger WT-1, A. niger WT-GFP and A. niger WT-vector. To confirm the findings, Northern blot analysis was performed.

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Example 4

Northern analysis

To corroborate the results of the Affymetrix A.niger GeneChips[™] experiments, Northern blot analysis was performed. For this, total RNA was isolated from A. niger strains WT-1, WT-GFP, WT-FYT and WT-vector. RNA was denatured, separated by gel electrophoresis on a 1% agarose gel and transferred onto a nylon membrane (Hybond-N+, 25 Amersham Biosciences) by capillary blotting according to the manufacturer's instruction. The RNA was UV cross-linked to the nylon membranes on a GS Gene Linker[™] (BioRad, C3 setting,150 mJoule). DNA for the generation of ³²P-labeled DNA probes was isolated by PCR using genomic DNA of A. niger WT-1 as a template and using the primers listed in Table 3 (SEQ ID NO's 50 to 59). Northern blots were hybridised with randomly primed ³²P-30 labeled DNA probes, representing the secretion-induced genes (SEQ ID NO's 20 to 24), according to suppliers instructions (RadPrime DNA Labeling System, Invitrogen). The results of the Northern analyses are shown in figure 10. The hybridisation pattern of the Northern blots confirm the data obtained by expression analyses of the Affymetrix A. niger GeneChips[™] data; low expression of the secretion-induced genes in A.niger strains WT-1, 35 WT-GFP, WT-vector and high expression in A.niger WT-PHY.

Primer	Primer sequence	Gene sequence
SEQ ID NO: 50	CAACACCTACGGCGTCAAGG	SEQ ID NO:20
SEQ ID NO: 51	TAACCCGGGGAGATGCTGTT	SEQ ID NO:20
SEQ ID NO: 52	CGATCCGGAAATTCCTCCTG	SEQ ID NO:21
SEQ ID NO: 53	GCCGCCGACTCAGCAGTAT	SEQ ID NO:21
SEQ ID NO: 54	GTGCATGAACAACACGGAGA	SEQ ID NO:22
SEQ ID NO: 55	ACTCAGTTGTGCGCCTCTCG	SEQ ID NO:22
SEQ ID NO: 56	GTCGAACTCGGCGTTTCTCC	SEQ ID NO:23
SEQ ID NO: 57	CCGGTGAGGAGGTGCTTTTC	SEQ ID NO:23
SEQ ID NO: 58	AGCATCTCGCCATCCATCAG	SEQ ID NO:24
SEQ ID NO: 59	GCCTTCGGACCATGGTATCC	SEQ ID NO:24

Table 3: Primers used to isolate DNA for ³²P-labeled probes.

Example 5

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Cloning of GFP-BLE secretion-induced reporter constructs.

A fusion of GFP (Green Fluorescent Protein (Chalfie, M et al., Science (1994) 263(5148): 802-805) and phleomycin binding protein (BLE, present in pGBFIN-14 previously described in WO99/32617) was constructed by means of PCR. The GFP fragment was amplified by PCR using the primer set consisting of SEQ ID NO: 62 and SEQ ID NO: 63. The BLE fragment was amplified by PCR using the primer set consisting of SEQ ID NO: 62 and SEQ ID NO: 64 and SEQ ID NO: 65 with pGBFIN-14 as template. The overlapping PCR fragments obtained were used in a fusion PCR with primers SEQ ID NO: 62 and SEQ ID NO: 65, resulting in PCR fusion product GFP-BLE (SEQ ID NO: 61). The GFP-BLE fusion was digested with restriction enzymes PacI and AscI and ligated in the PacI, AscI linearized cloning vector pGBFIN-2 (described in WO99/32617 and EP98/08577) thereby placing the GFP-BLE fusion under control of the glucoamylase promoter, the resulting vector pGBFINBLE-2 is depicted in figure 11.

Promoter sequences of the secretion-induced genes were isolated by PCR using genomic DNA from A.niger WT-1 as a template and primers as displayed in Table 4.

Primer	Primer sequence	Promoter	PCR product
SEQ ID NO:40	ACTTCATTAATTAAGTTGATTGAGGTAGAGATGAGTTTG	P1, SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:35
SEQ ID NO:41	ACTTCACTCGAGATAATGTAGGCGACAAAGTAGCC	P1, SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:35
SEQ ID NO:42	ACTTCATTAATTAATTTGACACTTAACGTGGTAAGG	P2, SEQ ID NO:21	SEQ ID NO:36

SEQ ID NO:43	ACTTCACTCGAGTTCTCACAAGCAAATCCGAGA	P2, SEQ ID NO:21	SEQ ID NO:36
SEQ ID NO:44	ATCCTACTCGAGTGGTGCCTGTGAACGAGGTCA	P3, SEQ ID NO:22	SEQ ID NO:37
SEQ ID NO:45	ACTTCATTAATTAATGTGGATTTTGGATAGTAATTAAAG	P3, SEQ ID NO:22	SEQ ID NO:37
SEQ ID NO:46	ATCCTATTAATTAAGATGGTTTGGTGTATAACAGAACA	P4, SEQ ID NO:23	SEQ ID NO:38
SEQ ID NO:47	ACTTCACTCGAGGTCCACACTCTAATTGGGATGA	P4, SEQ ID NO:23	SEQ ID NO:38
SEQ ID NO:48	ATCCTATTAATTAAGTTGCATCTGCGACAGACAGT	P5, SEQ ID NO:24	SEQ ID NO:39
SEQ ID NO:49	ACTTCACTCGAGGCCTTTGGAGAATGTAATATCCC	P5, SEQ ID NO:24	SEQ ID NO:39

Table 4: Overview of primers used for amplification of corresponding promoters

The resulting PCR fragments (SEQ ID NO's: 35 to 39) were digested with restriction enzymes Xhol and Pacl and ligated in the Xhol, Pacl linearized cloning vector pGBFINBLE-2 depicted in figure 11, thereby removing PgpdA-amdS and replacing the glucoamylase 5 promoter with the respective secretion-inducible promoter, Pind, resulting in pGBFINGFPBLE-1 to 5. pGBFINGFPBLE-1 is depicted in figure 12, and is representitive for pGBFINGFPBLE-2 to 5. The fusion constructs of the respective inducible promoters with GFP-BLE was isolated by XhoI and FseI digestion of pGBFINGFPBLE-1 and subsequently 10 ligated in the Xhol, Fsel linearized A. niger expression vector pGBTOPSEL-1 depicted in figure 13. The resulting secretion reporter constructs, pGBTOPGFPBLE-1 to 5, contain a fusion of GFP-BLE under the control of respectively secretion-inducible promoter P1, P2, P3, P4, P5. In figure 14 pGBTOPGFPBLE-1 is depicted as representative for pGBTOPGFPBLE-1 to 5. These vectors were used to transform A.niger WT-1 in example 6 and 7. 15

Example 6

Overexpression of extracellular protein confers phleomycin resistance to *A. niger* expressing a GFP-BLE reporter construct.

Transformation of the secretion reporter constructs pGBTOPGFPBLE-1 to 5 to A. niger WT-PHY-2 overexpressing the secreted protein phytase was performed according to the procedure described in Materials and Methods. Transformants were selected on selective regeneration plates supplemented with various amounts of phleomycin (0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 microgram per ml) as selective agent. All 5 reporter constructs enabled direct selection of transformants on the phleomycin containing plates whereas the negative control, WT-PHY-2 wild-type, was not able to grow on any of the plates containing phleomycin. The secretion reporter constructs pGBTOPGFPBLE- 1 to 5 enabled growth on respectively 50, 35, 50, 35, 25 microgram per ml phleomcyin. Thereby demonstrating that

the secretion-inducible promoters of these constructs are functional and direct selection on phleomycin after transformation is possible.

Example 7

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Selection of *A.niger* clones expressing extracellular proteins after cotransformation of a cDNA library and the GFP-BLE reporter construct.

Aspergillus niger WT-1 was co-transformed using the secretion reporter constructs pGBTOPGFPBLE-1 to 5 in combination with a defined A. niger cDNA library encoding for 50 extracellular proteins and 50 intracellular proteins. Co-transformation events were confirmed by colony PCR. Spores of co-transformants containing the secretion reporter construct in combination with an expression library construct were grown on selective plates supplemented with different amounts of phleomycin (0, 5, 25, 50, 100, 175 microgram per ml). An average increase in phleomycin resistance was demonstrated for co-transformants containing the secretion reporter construct in combination with a library construct encoding an extracellular protein compared to transformants with the secretion reporter construct in combination with a library construct encoding an intracellular protein. Graphics representing these results for secrection sensitive promoters P4 and P5 are shown in figure 15 and 16. These results demonstrate that an increase in phleomycin resistance of at least up to 20-fold was achieved.

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Diversity of extracellular proteins produced by the co-transformants which contained secretion reporter constructs comprising promoters P1 or P3 in combination with a library construct encoding an extracellular protein was demonstrated. Co-transformants were individually grown in microtiterplates and on day 6 the supernatant of these cultures was subjected to protein analysis by E-PAGETM High-Throughput Pre-Cast Gel System (Invitrogen) and mass spectrometry (MALDI MS/MS).

The E-PAGE[™] 96, 6% Gels (Invitrogen) contain 96 sample lanes in microtiterplate format and 8 marker lanes for protein separation. Supernatant and marker (E-PAGE[™] SeeBlue[®] pre-stained standard (Invitrogen)) were loaded on the gel according to suppliers manual. After electrophoresis of the gel, SimplyBlue[™] Safestain (Invitrogen) was used for staining according to suppliers manual. The scan of the E-PAGE[™] gel was edited by the Eeditor program provided by Invitrogen, which aligns the protein samples in microtiterplate format. Extracellular proteins produced by co-transformants with secretion sensitive promoters P1 and P3 are displayed in figure 17 and 18, and are summarized in Table 5. These results demonstrate that up to 77% of the analysed phleomycin resistant colonies secreted proteins in amounts detectable by E-PAGE. Based on the size of the observed protein fragments on the gels, the diversity of the clones transformed with the defined library was estimated. These results demonstrate that a diversity of up to 35% could be observed based on E-PAGE analysis.

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The mass spectrometry results are depicted in Table 5. Up to 58% of the analysed phleomycin resistant colonies secreted proteins in amounts detectable by mass spectrometry. Diversity was estimated based on the identity of the detected peptide sequences. These results demonstrate that a diversity of up to 100% could be observed using mass spectrometry.

Assay	Promoter	Transformants analysed	Pos	itive	Dive	rsity
		No	No	%	No	%
MALDI	1	26	14	54%	14	100%
MALDI	3	31	18	58%	12	67%
E-PAGE	1	26	20	77%	7	35%
E-PAGE	3	31	20	65%	6	30%

Table 5: Summary of E-PAGE and mass spectrometry results. The assay used for analysis is depicted in the first column; the second column identifies the secretion sensitive promoter-reporter construct; the third column depicts the amount of transformants that were analysed by either assay; the fourth and fifth column depict the amount of colonies scored positive for secretion of a protein and the respective positive percentage; the sixth and seventh column depict the number of colonies secreting distinct proteins and the respective diversity percentage.

Applicant's or agent's file reference number 24403WO

International application No.

INDICATIONS RELATING TO A DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM

(PCT Rule 13bis)

A. The indications made below relate to the microorganism referred to in the description firstly mentioned on page 14 line 10				
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT	Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet			
Name of depositary institution CENTRAAL BUREAU VOOR SCHIMMELCULTURES Address of depositary institution (including postal code and counti	ry)			
Uppsalalaan 8 P.O. Box 85167 NL-3508 AD Utrecht The Netherlands				
Date of deposit 10 August 1988	Accession Number CBS 513.88			
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applica	<i>ble)</i> This information is continued on an additional sheet			
We inform you that the availability of the microorganism identified above, referred to Rule 13bis PCT, shall be effected only by issue of a sample to an expert nominated by the requester until the publication of the mention of grant of the national patent or, where applicable, for twenty years from the date of filing if the application has been refused, with drawn or deemed to be withdrawn.				
D. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATIONS	ARE MADE (if the indications are not for all designated States)			
E. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS (leave bi	lank if not applicable)			
The indications listed below will be submitted to the International "Accession Number of Deposit")	Bureau later (specify the general nature of the indications e.g.,			
For receiving Office use only	For International Bureau use only			
This sheet was received with the international application Authorized officer Form PCT/RO/134 (July 1992)	This sheet was received by the International Bureau on: Authorized officer			

CLAIMS

1. A promoter DNA sequence such as:

- (a) a DNA sequence as presented in the following list: SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:24,
 - (b) a DNA sequence capable of hybridizing with a DNA sequence of (a),
 - (c) a DNA sequence being at least 50% homologous to a DNA sequence of (a),
 - (d) a variant of any of the DNA sequences of (a) to (c), or
- 10 (e) a subsequence of any of the DNA sequences of (a) to (d).

2. A DNA construct comprising a promoter DNA sequence according to claim 1 operatively associated with a reporter gene conferring a selectable trait, preferably a selection marker gene.

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3. An expression vector comprising a DNA construct according to claim 2, wherein the DNA construct comprises a DNA fragment, which is homologous to a DNA sequence in a predetermined target locus in the genome of a host cell, preferably the predetermined target locus comprises a highly expressed gene.

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4. An expression vector comprising a DNA construct according to claim 2, wherein the DNA construct is capable of autonomous maintenance in a host cell, preferably the DNA construct comprises an AMA1-sequence.

5. A host cell comprising the DNA construct according to claim 2, or comprising the expression vector according to claim 3 or 4.

6. The host cell according to claim 5, further comprising a DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence comprising a coding sequence originating from a DNA library from an organism suspected of being capable of producing one or more proteins of interest.

7. The host cell according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the host cell is a prokaryote or an eukaryote.

8. The host cell according to claim 7, wherein the host cell is selected from the following list: a *Bacillus*, a yeast or a filamentous fungus, preferably an *Aspergillus, Penicillium* or *Trichoderma* species.

5 9.The host cell according to claim 8, wherein the *Aspergillus* is an *Aspergillus niger* or *Aspergillus sojae* or *Aspergillus oryzae* species.

10. A method for isolating a DNA sequence comprising a DNA sequence coding for a protein of interest in a host cell, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing, a first DNA construct comprising a promoter DNA sequence operatively associated with a reporter gene conferring a selectable trait; said promoter DNA sequence being induced when the DNA construct is present in the host cell and when a protein of interest, preferably a secreted protein of interest, is produced by the host cell,

- (b) preparing a second DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence comprising a DNA sequence coding for a protein of interest originating from a DNA library from an organism suspected of being capable of producing one or more proteins of interest,
 - (c) transforming a host cell with both DNA constructs prepared in (a) and in (b),
 - (d) culturing all the transformed host cells obtained in (c) under conditions conducive to the production of the proteins of interest as present in the DNA library; and
 - (e) screening for transformed host cells producing a protein of interest by analysis of the proteins produced in (d).

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the host cell is first transformed with the
 DNA construct prepared in step (a) and consecutively is transformed with the DNA construct prepared in step (b).

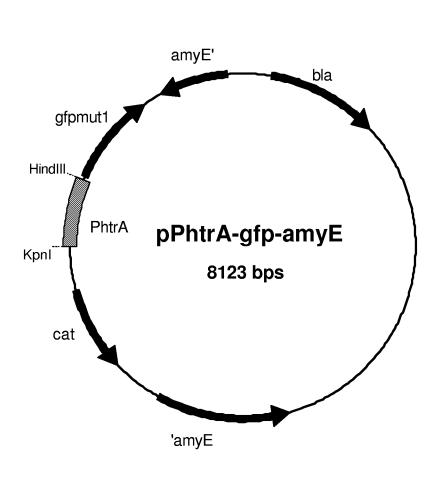
12. The method according to claims 10 or 11, wherein the promoter used in step (a) is the promoter of claim 1.

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13. A method according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the organism suspected of being capable of producing a protein of interest is a eukaryote or a prokaryote.

14. A method according to any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the protein of interest is an 35 enzyme.

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1/18

Fig. 1



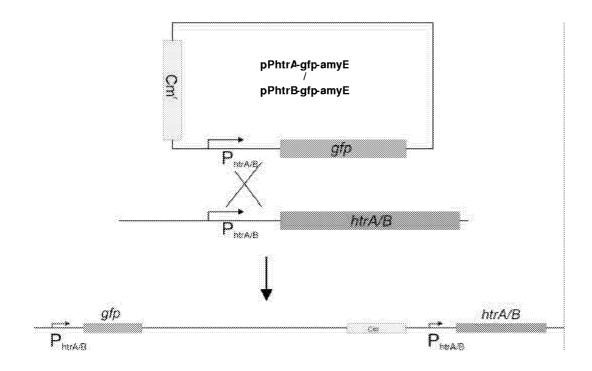


Fig. 2

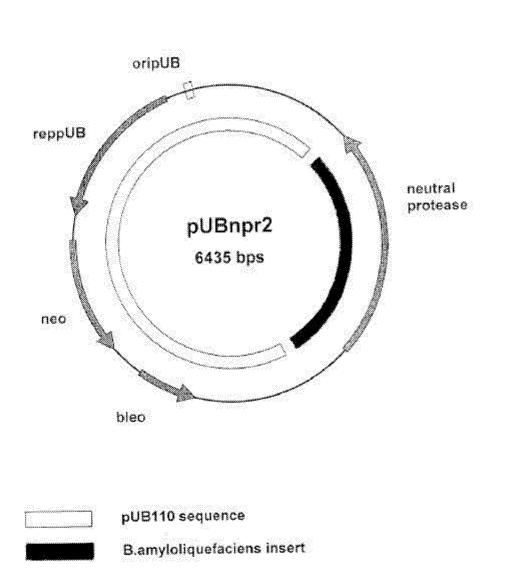
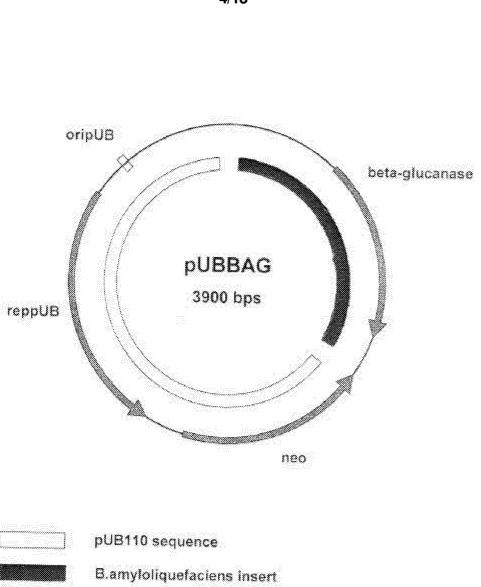


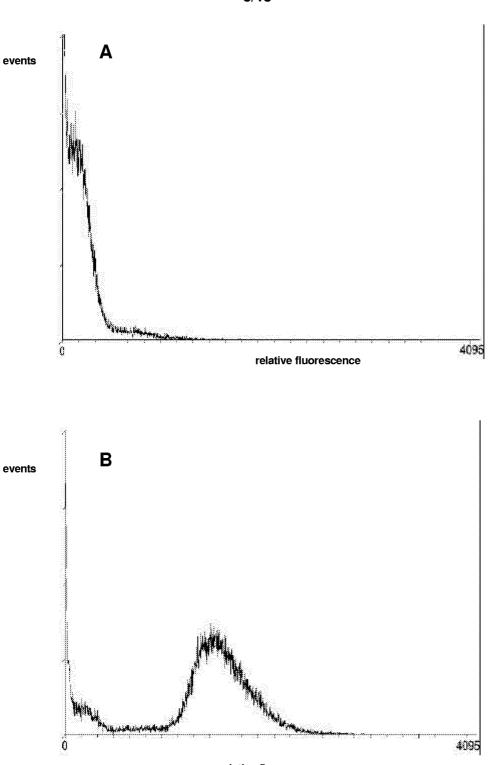


Fig. 3



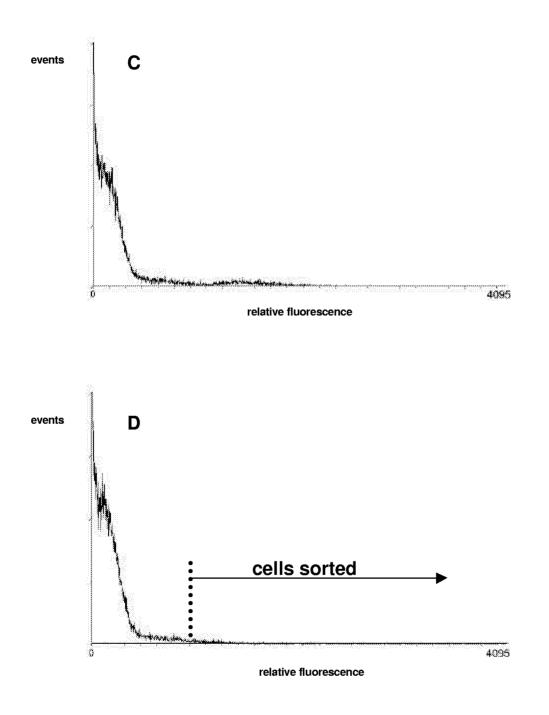
4/18

Fig. 4



5/18

relative fluorescence



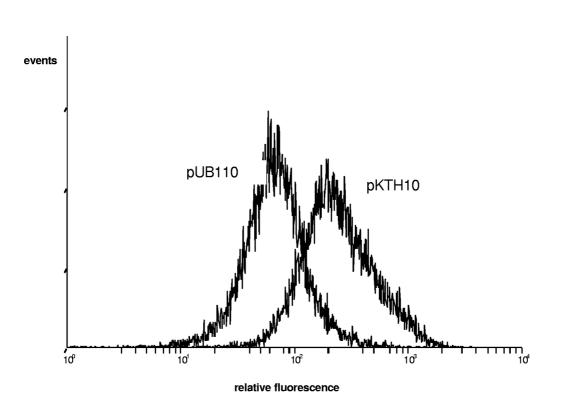
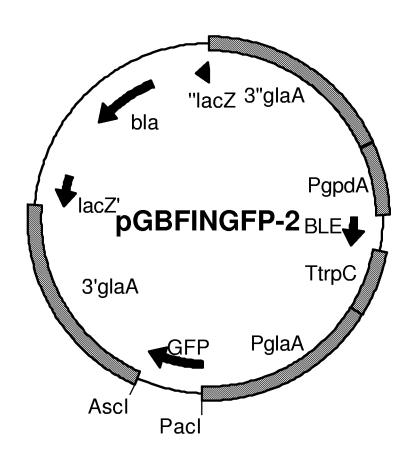


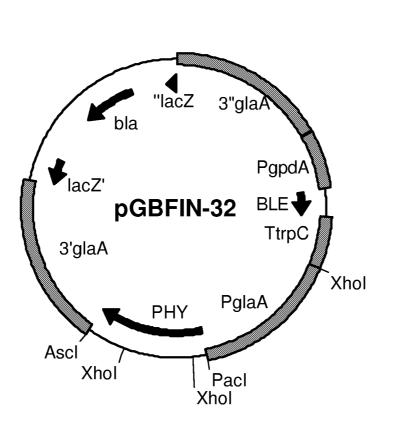


Fig. 6



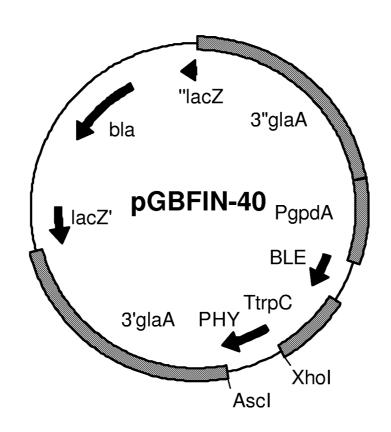
7/18

Fig. 7



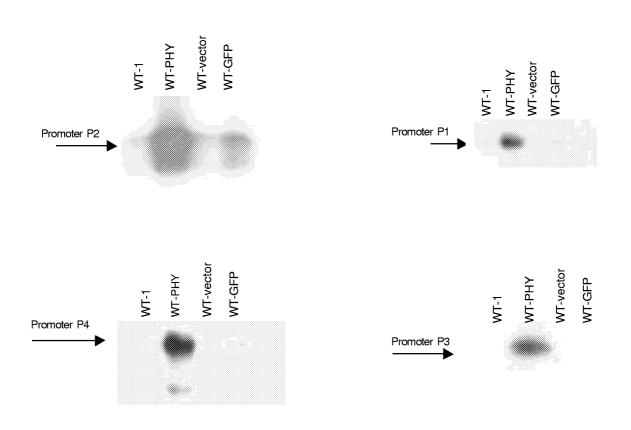
8/18

Fig. 8



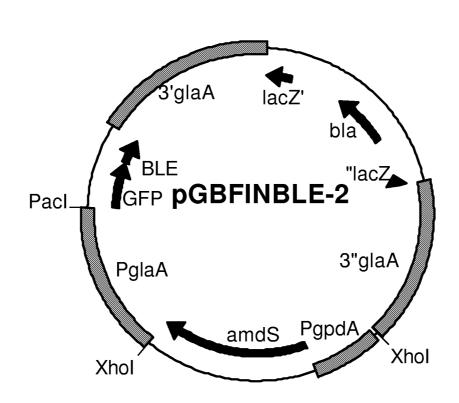
9/18

Fig. 9



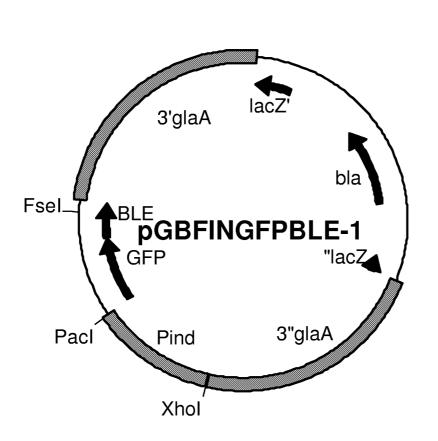
10/18

Fig. 10



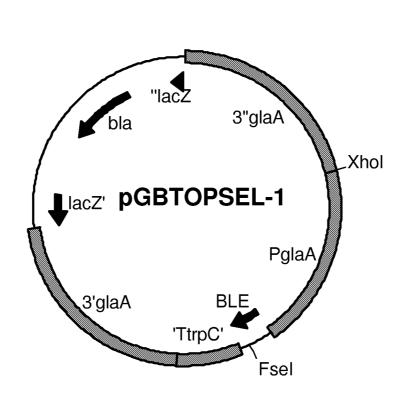
11/18

Fig. 11



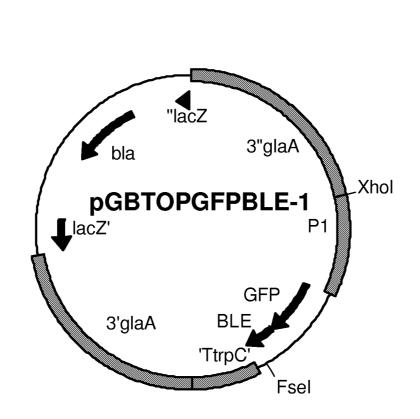
12/18

Fig. 12



13/18

Fig. 13



14/18

Fig. 14

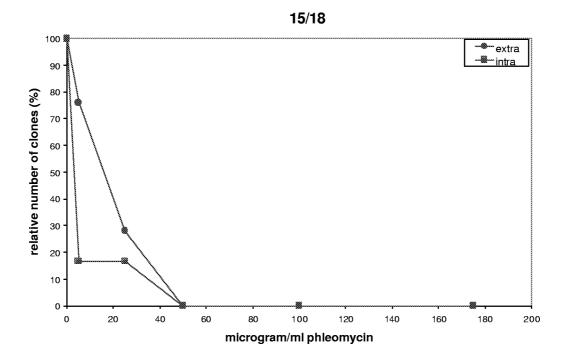


Fig. 15

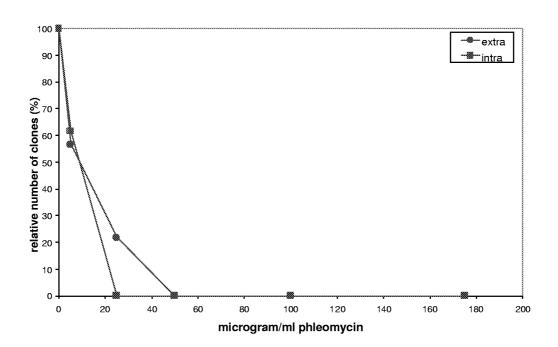
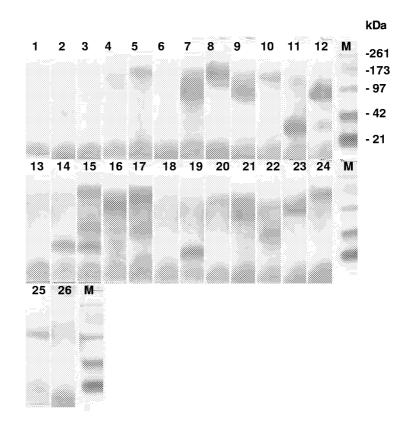


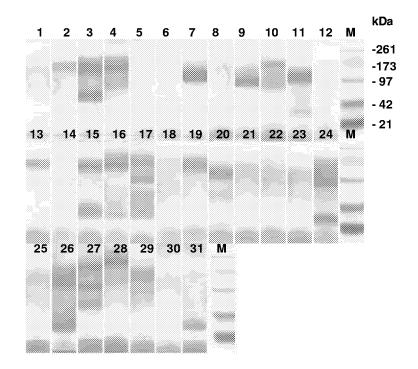


Fig. 16



17/18

Fig. 17



18/18

Fig. 18

SEQUENCE LISTING <110> DSM IP Assets B.V. <120> IMPROVED METHOD OF EXPRESSION CLONING IN A HOST CELL <130> 24403WO <160> 65 <170> XML to WIPO ST.25 Converter - http://www.biomax.de/ <210> 1 <211> 168 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <400> 1 CGACTCAGTC CTTTCATATA CAATATGAAG TGTACCGTTT TCCGCACTTT TTCACAATTT 60 CCCATAATCT TTTCATTTTT ATCCCACAGT TTTTGTTTAT GATAAACTCA AGTCATAAAC 120 CTATCAATAT AAATAGACAT GTGAAAATAG AGAAACGGAG TGAACATG 168 <210> 2 <211> 277 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <400> 2 GGCTCTTCAC ATCCTTTCAA CGTCATTATA AACTAGTTTT AACATACGGC AGGCAATTTT 60 CATAATTTCA CATATTCTTT TCATTTTTAT CCCACAATGT TTGTTTATGA TATGGTTAAG 120 GGAAGAAAGG AAGAGAAAAA GAGCGAGGAA GATGTAGGAT GATCAAACAT ATTCTATTTT 180 GGTGCTTTGC TTTTCTCCTC ATTATTGGGA CAATTGAACT TGTACATGCG ATGAATATGT 240 AACGATAAAT GAATAACCGT TAAAGGAGTG TAAGAAC 277 <210> 3 <211> 26 <212> DNA <213> Artificial sequence <220> <223> Primer <400> 3 26 GTGAGCGGAT AACAATTTCA CACAGG <210> 4 <211> 70 <212> DNA <213> Artificial sequence <220> <223> Primer <400> 4

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		Val														/00	5
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-					-	-		Asp			-		-	-	-	1050
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Arg	GIY	Ala	GIN	Leu 405	Ser	Leu	Leu	Leu	Lys 410	Pro	GIY	Leu	Leu	GIN 415	Asn	
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								Gly								2200
			420					425			1	1	430	2		
-		-		-	-	-	-	gtt		-			-		-	1344
Pro	Gly		Val	Arg	Val	Ala		Val	Pro	Leu	Tyr		Ser	Phe	Ser	
nen	~++	435 + aa	202	+++	at a	220	440 at c	ttc	220	aat	002	445 at a	0.20	0.20	taa	1392
	-					-		Phe	-	-	-	-	-	-	uya	1372
010	450	P				455			-10	11010	460	200	0111	0111		
		_														
) > 28															
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Leu 65	Arg	Ala	Arg	Arg	Leu 70	Arg	Arg	Leu	Asp	Pro 75	Thr	Arg	Glu	Thr	Lys 80	
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цец	цуз		лец	ALA	туг	цуз	120	ALG	AIA	DET	E IIG	125	1113	тте	I IIG	
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-			-		-	cct	-	-		-	-			-	-	432
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Thr	Ile	Thr	Val	Ser	Gly	Lys	Pro	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ser	Asp	Ser	Ala	Pro	
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404	900															120
Thr	Ala		-	-				-	-		-	-	-			720
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225 ctc Leu gcc Ala gcc Ala gac Asp atg Met 305 gct Ala tcc	ccg Pro tac Tyr aag Lys gag Glu 290 gtg Val gtg Val tct	Thr ggg Gly ctc Leu caa Gln 275 agc Ser aag Lys cag cag	Ala tcg Ser tac Tyr 260 gcc Ala ttc Phe cgg Arg acg Thr aca	Cys cac His 245 gat Asp att Ile gag Glu gga Gly ccc Pro 325 acg	Phe 230 ccg Pro tgc Cys gcc Ala gat Asp agg Arg 310 cag Gln ttg	Asn ctc Leu gat Asp gca Ala 295 aac Asn gag Glu aaa	His cgt Arg cat His gtg Val 280 gct Ala Thr gag Glu agg	Ala ctg Leu gac Asp 265 tac Tyr gag Glu agc Ser cga Arg ccg	Ala tcc Ser 250 gct Ala aat Asn att Ile agt Ser 330 gcg	Leu 235 atc Ile cat His gcg Ala gtg Val gct Ala 315 gag Glu cga	Leu aag Lys gcc Ala caa Gln ggt Gly 300 gga Gly ggc Gly ggc	Ala ctt Leu tgt Cys gag Glu 285 att Ile aat Asn agt ccg	Asp gaa Glu cga Arg 270 ggc Gly ttg Leu agc Ser cga Arg aaa	Gln ttt Phe 255 cgg Arg atg Met ggc Gly acc Thr 335 agc	Phe 240 9cc Ala ttg Leu gac Asp aag Lys acg Thr 320 cca Pro acc	768 816 864 912 960 1008
225 ctc Leu gcc Ala gcc Ala gac Asp atg Met 305 gct Ala tcc Ser	ccg Pro tac Tyr aag Lys gag Glu 290 gtg Val gtg Val tct Ser	Thr ggg Gly ctc Leu caa Gln 275 agc Ser aag Lys aaa Lys cag Gln	Ala tcg Ser tac Tyr 260 gcc Ala ttc Phe cgg Arg acg Thr aca Thr 340	Cys cac His 245 gat Asp att Ile gag Glu gga Gly ccc Pro 325 acg Thr	Phe 230 ccg Pro tgc Cys gcc Ala gat Asp agg Arg 310 cag Gln ttg Leu	Asn ctc Leu gat Asp gca Ala 295 aac Asn gag Glu aaa	His cgt Arg cat His gtg Val 280 gct Ala aca Thr gag Glu agg Arg	Ala ctg Leu gac Asp 265 tac Tyr gag Glu agc Ser cga Arg ccg Pro 345	Ala tcc Ser 250 gct Ala asn att Ile agt Ser 330 gcg Ala	Leu 235 atc Ile cat His gcg Ala gtg Val gct Ala 315 gag Glu cga Arg	Leu aag Lys gcc Ala caa Gln ggt Gly 300 gga Gly ggc Gly ygtg Val	Ala ctt Leu tgt Cys gag Glu 285 att Ile aat Asn agt Ser ccg Pro	Asp gaa Glu cga Arg 270 ggc Gly ttg Leu agc Ser cga Arg aaa Lys 350	Gln ttt Phe 255 cgg Arg atg Met ggc Gly acc Thr aca Thr 335 agc Ser	Phe 240 gcc Ala ttg Leu gac Asp aag Lys acg Thr 320 cca Pro acc Thr	768 816 864 912 960 1008
225 ctc Leu gcc Ala gcc Ala gac Asp atg Met 305 gct Ala tcc Ser tcc	ccg Pro tac Tyr aag Lys gag Glu 290 gtg Val gtg Val tct Ser tca	Thr gggg Gly ctc Leu caa Gln 275 agc Ser aag Lys aaa Lys cag Gln ccg	Ala tcg Ser tac Tyr 260 gcc Ala ttc Phe cgg Arg acg Thr aca Thr 340 gcg	Cys cac His 245 gat Asp att Ile gag Glu gga Gly ccc Pro 325 acg Thr cgc	Phe 230 ccg Pro tgc Cys gcc Ala gat Asp agg Arg 310 cag Gln ttg Leu gcg	Asn ctc Leu cta Leu gat Asp gca Ala 295 aac Asn gag Glu aaa Lys	His cgt Arg cat His gtg Val 280 gct Ala aca Thr gag Glu agg Arg aag	Ala ctg Leu gac Asp 265 tac Tyr gag Glu agc Ser cga Arg ccg Pro 345 ccg	Ala tcc Ser 250 gct Ala asn att Ile agt Ser 330 gcg Ala acg	Leu 235 atc Ile cat His gcg Ala gtg Val gct Ala 315 gag Glu cga Arg act	Leu aag Lys gcc Ala caa Gln ggt Gly 300 gga Gly ggc Gly ygtg Val agc	Ala ctt Leu tgt Cys gag Glu 285 att Ile aat Asn agt Ser ccg Pro gag	Asp gaa Glu cga Arg 270 ggc Gly ttg Leu agc Ser cga Arg aaa Lys 350 ggg	Gln ttt Phe 255 cgg Arg atg Met ggc Gly acc Thr aca Thr 335 agc Ser atg	Phe 240 9cc Ala ttg Leu gac Asp aag Lys acg Thr 320 cca Pro acc Thr tcc	768 816 864 912 960 1008 1056
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225 ctc Leu gcc Ala gcc Ala gac Asp atg Met 305 gct Ala tcc Ser tcc Ser	ccg Pro tac Tyr aag Lys gag Glu 290 gtg Val gtg Val tct Ser tca Ser	Thr ggg Gly ctc Leu caa Gln 275 agc Ser aag Lys aaa Lys cag Gln ccg Pro 355	Ala tcg Ser tac Tyr 260 gcc Ala ttc Phe cgg Arg acg Thr aca Thr 340 gcg Ala	Cys cac His 245 gat Asp att Ile gag Glu gga Gly ccc Pro 325 acg Thr cgc Arg	Phe 230 ccg Pro tgc Cys gcc Ala gat Asp agg Arg 310 cag Gln ttg Leu gcg Ala	Asn ctc Leu gat Asp gca Ala 295 aac Asn gag Glu aaa Lys acc	His cgt Arg cat His gtg Val 280 gct Ala aca Thr gag Glu agg Arg S60	Ala ctg Leu gac Asp 265 tac Tyr gag Glu agc Ser cga Arg ccg Pro	Ala tcc Ser 250 gct Ala asn att Ile agt Ser 330 gcg Ala acg Thr	Leu 235 atc Ile cat His gcg Ala gtg Val gct Ala 315 gag Glu cga Arg act Thr	Leu aag Lys gcc Ala caa Gln ggt Gly 300 gga Gly ggc Gly ggc gtg Val agc Ser	Ala ctt Leu tgt Cys gag Glu 285 att Ile aat Asn agt Ser ccg Pro gag Glu 365	Asp gaa Glu cga Arg 270 ggc Gly ttg Leu agc Ser cga Arg aaa Lys 350 ggg	Gln ttt Phe 255 cgg Arg atg Met ggc Gly acc Thr aca Thr 335 agc Ser atg	Phe 240 9cc Ala ttg Leu gac Asp aag Lys acg Thr 320 cca Pro acc Thr tcc	768 816 864 912 960 1008 1056

Pro Ala Val Pro Asp Pro Thr Met Met Asn Pro Ile <210> 29 <211> 1779 <212> DNA <213> Aspergillus niger <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1779) <400> 29 atg aga aat ttg gag tgt gtc tac aca aaa tca cga agg tat ccc tcg Met Arg Asn Leu Glu Cys Val Tyr Thr Lys Ser Arg Arg Tyr Pro Ser tot ato ttt cog aca oto agg agg tog toa act agt cog aac acg gog Ser Ile Phe Pro Thr Leu Arg Arg Ser Ser Thr Ser Pro Asn Thr Ala tee tet eet gae act aat gee tea tet teg eea tge teg gae tet agt Ser Ser Pro Asp Thr Asn Ala Ser Ser Ser Pro Cys Ser Asp Ser Ser ggg acc cat gct ggc att tcc att ccc cac tca gat agt ccc gcc agt Gly Thr His Ala Gly Ile Ser Ile Pro His Ser Asp Ser Pro Ala Ser gtg gac gaa tgt ggg aac aac ggc ctt ttc gac ggg gaa tct cta act Val Asp Glu Cys Gly Asn Asn Gly Leu Phe Asp Gly Glu Ser Leu Thr caa tta ttg gtc tct ggg agc aaa gcc ata tca ggc caa cca cat atc Gln Leu Leu Val Ser Gly Ser Lys Ala Ile Ser Gly Gln Pro His Ile gcc att aag cca cat gtt ctg tct acc tat ccc ctt gac aac ctc ctc Ala Ile Lys Pro His Val Leu Ser Thr Tyr Pro Leu Asp Asn Leu Leu tca gac att gag gga ctc ctc gag cag cca gtc tct cat ttg gct caa Ser Asp Ile Glu Gly Leu Leu Glu Gln Pro Val Ser His Leu Ala Gln agc aag gaa gat cta aca aaa ccg gac cgg atg ttt cga act cgc ctt Ser Lys Glu Asp Leu Thr Lys Pro Asp Arg Met Phe Arg Thr Arg Leu cca gcg gtc tca ggt gag gac aat gag tat ctg cta agg aaa gga gct Pro Ala Val Ser Gly Glu Asp Asn Glu Tyr Leu Leu Arg Lys Gly Ala ctg ctg ctc ttg cca cca gcc ttg cgc aac gaa cta ttg gcg gca tat Leu Leu Leu Pro Pro Ala Leu Arg Asn Glu Leu Leu Ala Ala Tyr gtc aac tac gtc cat ccg cta tta ccg att ctt gat ctt gga gac ttt Val Asn Tyr Val His Pro Leu Leu Pro Ile Leu Asp Leu Gly Asp Phe ctc tca caa atc att gtt gga gat gat gct caa ttc aag tca cca cta Leu Ser Gln Ile Ile Val Gly Asp Asp Ala Gln Phe Lys Ser Pro Leu tta tac caa get gte atg tte geg gge agt att ttt get eag ega gae Leu Tyr Gln Ala Val Met Phe Ala Gly Ser Ile Phe Ala Gln Arg Asp ggc aca gac gaa cct gaa cag cta acg agg gct tta ttt gaa cgt aca

Gly 225	Thr	Asp	Glu	Pro	Glu 230	Gln	Leu	Thr	Arg	Ala 235	Leu	Phe	Glu	Arg	Thr 240	
-	-	cta Leu				-		-		-	-					768
		ctc Leu														816
		ccg Pro 275					-	-	-					-	-	864
		cta Leu			-					-		-	-			912
		gct Ala														960
		tct Ser	-					-		-				-	-	1008
		ctc Leu			-	-	-	-			-		-	-		1056
		gag Glu 355														1104
	-	caa Gln	-		-			-	-		-					1152
-	-	ggg Gly	-			-				-		-		-	-	1200
		aca Thr	-	-	-	-					-			-	-	1248
	_	cca Pro			_		_	_								1296
	~ 7	ttc Phe 435	_	_	_	_			_			_			_	1344
		gcg Ala														1392
		ctt Leu														1440
		act Thr														1488
		cgg Arg	-	-	-					-	-				-	1536
		atg Met 515														1584
ctg	atg	ttc	gct	gtg	gag	gct	agt	ctg	ttg	gat	ctc	cag	ggc	tcg	gat	1632

Leu Met Phe Ala Val Glu Ala Ser Leu Leu Asp Leu Gln Gly Ser Asp acc atg gtc cga agg cag gct atg tca aat cta tat gcc tgt gag gag Thr Met Val Arg Arg Gln Ala Met Ser Asn Leu Tyr Ala Cys Glu Glu gct gcg tta cac ttg atg cag gct tat cct acg gct gag atg gcg gta Ala Ala Leu His Leu Met Gln Ala Tyr Pro Thr Ala Glu Met Ala Val ttg aag act agg aca gcc cgt gca aac ctt ctt ggg ttg gtt gag aca Leu Lys Thr Arg Thr Ala Arg Ala Asn Leu Leu Gly Leu Val Glu Thr tga <210> 30 <211> 266 <212> PRT <213> Aspergillus niger <400> 30 Met Pro Ile Ser Ile Pro Ser Ala Ser Ser Val His Asp Leu Phe Ser 1 5 Leu Lys Gly Lys Val Val Val Ile Thr Gly Ala Ser Gly Pro Arg Gly Met Gly Ile Glu Ala Ala Arg Gly Cys Ala Glu Met Gly Ala Asn Ile Ala Leu Thr Tyr Ser Ser Arg Pro Gln Gly Gly Glu Lys Asn Ala Glu Glu Leu Arg Asn Thr Tyr Gly Val Lys Ala Lys Ala Tyr Gln Cys Asn Val Gly Asp Trp Asn Ser Val Lys Lys Leu Val Asp Asp Val Leu Ala Glu Phe Gly Gln Ile Asp Ala Phe Ile Ala Asn Ala Gly Lys Thr Ala Ser Ser Gly Ile Leu Asp Gly Ser Val Glu Asp Trp Glu Glu Val Ile Gln Thr Asp Leu Thr Gly Thr Phe His Cys Ala Lys Ala Val Gly Pro His Phe Lys Gln Arg Gly Thr Gly Ser Phe Ile Ile Thr Ser Ser Met Ser Gly His Ile Ala Asn Phe Pro Gln Glu Gln Thr Ser Tyr Asn Val Ala Lys Ala Gly Cys Ile His Met Ala Arg Ser Leu Ala Asn Glu Trp 180 185 190 Arg Asp Phe Ala Arg Val Asn Ser Ile Ser Pro Gly Tyr Ile Asp Thr Gly Leu Ser Asp Phe Val Asp Lys Lys Thr Gln Asp Leu Trp Met Ser Met Ile Pro Met Gly Arg Asn Gly Asp Ala Lys Glu Leu Lys Gly Ala 230 235 Tyr Val Tyr Leu Ala Ser Asp Ala Ser Thr Tyr Thr Thr Gly Ala Asp Leu Val Ile Asp Gly Gly Tyr Thr Val Arg

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Gln Cys Ile Phe Leu Arg Asn Thr Ser Ala Thr Asp Ser Gly Asp Lys 425 420 430 Phe Pro Tyr Asp Thr Ser Gly Phe Lys Leu Asn Gln Ser Asn Tyr 435 440 445 Met Phe Phe Leu His Pro Asp Asp Leu Thr Asn Leu Asp Ile Ala Asn 450 455 460 Gly Gln Cys Tyr Asn Thr Ser Ile Pro Gln Asn Leu Thr Phe Ser Tyr 470 475 465 480 Gln Gly Leu Pro Leu Gly Leu Gly Asp Glu Pro Thr Ala Val Asn Gly 490 485 495 Ser Ala Asn His Thr Ala Glu Ser Ala Ala Gly Leu Ser Val Lys Gly 500 505 510 Gly Thr Asp Met Gln Gly Leu Ile Phe Leu Phe Thr Leu Val Thr Ala 520 515 525 Tyr Ser Ile Phe Leu 530 <210> 32 <211> 463 <212> PRT <213> Aspergillus niger <400> 32 Met Ser Lys Ser Asn Gly Val Ser Leu Ala Phe Pro Ala Glu Ala Ala 1 5 10 15 Thr Lys Glu Tyr Ala Ala Ser Leu Asp Ser Ser Asp Arg Leu Ala Ala 20 25 30 Phe Arg Glu Lys Phe Ile Val Pro Ser Lys Ala Asn Ile Ala Ser Lys 35 40 45 Lys Leu Ala Lys Pro Gly Leu Ser Pro Glu Ser Cys Ile Tyr Phe Cys 55 60 50 Gly Asn Ser Leu Gly Ile Gln Pro Lys Ala Thr Ala Lys Tyr Leu Glu 65 70 75 80 Ala Gln Leu Asp Thr Trp Ser Ser Ile Gly Val Gly Gly His Phe Thr 85 90 95 Asp Leu Glu Gly Ser Pro Leu Lys Gln Trp Gln Leu Leu Ser Glu Gln 100 105 110 Ala Ala Asp Ser Met Ser Lys Ile Val Gly Ala Lys Pro Glu Glu Val 115 120 125 Ala Ala Met Gly Thr Leu Thr Thr Asn Leu His Leu Leu Ala Ser 135 140 130 Phe Tyr Lys Pro Thr Gln Thr Lys His Lys Ile Leu Met Asp Trp Lys 145 150 155 160 Ala Phe Pro Ser Asp His Tyr Ala Ile Glu Ser His Ile Ala Trp His 165 170 175 Asp Leu Asp Pro Lys Glu Ser Met Val Leu Ile Gly Pro Asp Glu Gly 180 185 190 Glu Tyr Glu Ile Ser Thr Gln Lys Ile Phe Ser Tyr Ile Asp Lys His 195 200 205 Ala Asp Glu Ala Ala Met Ile Leu Leu Pro Gly Ile Gln Tyr Tyr Thr 210 215 220 Gly Gln Leu Phe Asp Ile Gln Lys Ile Thr Lys Tyr Ala His Ser Arg 225 230 235 240 Asn Met Val Val Gly Trp Asp Leu Ala His Ala Phe Ala Asn Val Glu 245 250 255 Leu Lys Leu His Asp Trp Asn Val Asp Phe Ala Ala Trp Cys Thr Tyr

Lys Tyr Gly Asn Ala Gly Pro Gly Ala Met Gly Gly Leu Phe Val His 275 280 Glu Gln His Gly Glu Val Asp Tyr Ser Ala Gly Glu Asp Ala Pro Lys Phe Arg His Arg Leu Thr Gly Trp Tyr Gly Gly Asp Arg Ser Val Arg Phe Lys Met Asp Asn Lys Phe Lys Pro Ile Pro Gly Ala Gly Gly Phe Gln Ile Ser Asn Pro Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Ala Cys Leu Cys Ala Ala Leu Ser Val Phe Asp Glu Thr Ser Met Ala Asp Leu Arg Arg Lys Ser Leu Lys Leu Thr Ala Tyr Leu Glu Phe Leu Leu Leu Arg Asp Tyr Glu Glu Glu Ser Arg Pro Phe Ser Ile Ile Thr Pro Lys Asp Pro Glu Ala Arg Gly Ala Gln Leu Ser Leu Leu Leu Lys Pro Gly Leu Leu Gln Asn Val Ala Gln Lys Leu Gln Glu Ala Gly Ile Val Cys Asp Lys Arg Glu Pro Gly Val Val Arg Val Ala Pro Val Pro Leu Tyr Asn Ser Phe Ser Glu Val Trp Thr Phe Val Lys Ile Phe Lys Asp Ala Leu Gln Gln <210> 33 <211> 380 <212> PRT <213> Aspergillus niger <400> 33 Met Asp Val Thr Asn Leu Ala Val Asp Cys Pro Val Ile Glu Thr Gly Ser Leu Ala Leu Trp Met Ala Ser Ser Glu Val Asp Gln Lys Ala Leu 2.0 Gly Asn Phe Ala Ala Ile Thr Gly Leu Glu Asn Pro Phe Leu Ser Ala Met Leu Tyr Lys Ile Leu Gly Leu Ser Val Met Leu Ser Lys Lys Leu Leu Arg Ala Arg Arg Leu Arg Arg Leu Asp Pro Thr Arg Glu Thr Lys Ser Leu His Leu Tyr Tyr His Ile Ile Trp Leu Ser Arg Glu Gly Leu Leu Ile Leu Glu Glu Phe Val Leu Pro Leu Val Glu Gly Phe Met Glu 100 105 Leu Lys Ile Leu Ala Tyr Lys Leu Arg Ala Ser Phe Tyr His Ile Phe Val Leu Phe Gln Asn Gln Pro Ala Val His Ser Pro Gly Ile Val Ser Leu Pro Ser Ser Thr Pro Leu Ser Asn Gly Val Thr Glu Ala Glu Ser Pro Ser Lys Asp Ser Asn Leu Arg Phe Ser Phe Gln Leu Lys Pro Asp 165 170 175 Thr Ile Thr Val Ser Gly Lys Pro Ser Ser Ala Ser Asp Ser Ala Pro

Arg Gly Lys Val Thr Gln Ala Pro Pro Gly Phe Ala Pro Val Gln Pro 200 195 205 Pro Lys Ser Asn Ser Ala Phe Leu Leu Pro Ala Leu Asp Tyr Thr Pro 210 215 220 Thr Ala Thr Ala Cys Phe Asn His Ala Ala Leu Leu Ala Asp Gln Phe 225 230 235 240 Leu Pro Gly Ser His Pro Leu Arg Leu Ser Ile Lys Leu Glu Phe Ala 245 250 255 Ala Tyr Leu Tyr Asp Cys Leu His Asp Ala His Ala Cys Arg Arg Leu 260 265 270 Ala Lys Gln Ala Ile Ala Asp Val Tyr Asn Ala Gln Glu Gly Met Asp 275 280 285 Asp Glu Ser Phe Glu Asp Ala Ala Glu Ile Val Gly Ile Leu Gly Lys 290 295 300 Met Val Lys Arg Gly Arg Asn Thr Ser Ser Ala Gly Asn Ser Thr Thr 305 310 315 320 Ala Val Lys Thr Pro Gln Glu Glu Arg Ser Glu Gly Ser Arg Thr Pro 325 330 335 Ser Ser Gln Thr Thr Leu Lys Arg Pro Ala Arg Val Pro Lys Ser Thr 345 340 350 Ser Ser Pro Ala Arg Ala Thr Lys Pro Thr Thr Ser Glu Gly Met Ser 360 355 365 Pro Ala Val Pro Asp Pro Thr Met Met Asn Pro Ile 370 375 380 <210> 34 <211> 592 <212> PRT <213> Aspergillus niger <400> 34 Met Arg Asn Leu Glu Cys Val Tyr Thr Lys Ser Arg Arg Tyr Pro Ser 1 5 10 15 Ser Ile Phe Pro Thr Leu Arg Arg Ser Ser Thr Ser Pro Asn Thr Ala 20 25 30 Ser Ser Pro Asp Thr Asn Ala Ser Ser Ser Pro Cys Ser Asp Ser Ser 35 40 45 Gly Thr His Ala Gly Ile Ser Ile Pro His Ser Asp Ser Pro Ala Ser 50 55 60 Val Asp Glu Cys Gly Asn Asn Gly Leu Phe Asp Gly Glu Ser Leu Thr 70 75 80 65 Gln Leu Leu Val Ser Gly Ser Lys Ala Ile Ser Gly Gln Pro His Ile 85 90 95 Ala Ile Lys Pro His Val Leu Ser Thr Tyr Pro Leu Asp Asn Leu Leu 100 105 110 Ser Asp Ile Glu Gly Leu Leu Glu Gln Pro Val Ser His Leu Ala Gln 115 120 125 Ser Lys Glu Asp Leu Thr Lys Pro Asp Arg Met Phe Arg Thr Arg Leu 130 135 140 Pro Ala Val Ser Gly Glu Asp Asn Glu Tyr Leu Leu Arg Lys Gly Ala 145 150 155 160 Leu Leu Leu Pro Pro Ala Leu Arg Asn Glu Leu Leu Ala Ala Tyr 165 170 175 Val Asn Tyr Val His Pro Leu Leu Pro Ile Leu Asp Leu Gly Asp Phe 180 185 190 Leu Ser Gln Ile Ile Val Gly Asp Asp Ala Gln Phe Lys Ser Pro Leu

		195					200					205			
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	210					215					220				
Gly 225	Thr	Asp	Glu	Pro	Glu 230	Gln	Leu	Thr	Arg	Ala 235	Leu	Phe	Glu	Arg	Thr 240
	Val	Leu	Tvr	Glu		Glu	Ser	Glu	Ser		Ala	Tvr	Thr	Gln	
270	var	100	- 1 -	245	1 110	010	001	01u	250	010	1110	- 1 -	± ±	255	110
Gln	Ala	Leu		Leu	Met	Thr	Leu		His	Gly	Asp	Met		Arg	His
Taro	Clu	Dro	260 Sor	Ture	Tro	Tou	Nan	265 Vol	710	Dho	Cor	Thr	270	Clu	۸ra
цур	Gly	275	SET	тут	ттр	цец	280	vai	ALA	FIIG	Ser	285	ALA	Gru	ALQ
Ile	Gly	Leu	Leu	His	Asp	Glu		Trp	Pro	Cys	Asp	Ser	Arg	Ser	Phe
7	290	7 7		-	a	295	Ŧ			7	300	7	-	T]	a
Arg 305	Ser	Ala	Met	Trp	Cys 310	Cys	Leu	Tyr	val	Arg 315	Asp	Arg	Thr	ITE	Ser 320
	Gly	Ser	Arg	Arg		Pro	Arg	Met	Pro		Asn	Lys	Tyr	Pro	
	-		-	325			2		330			-	-	335	-
Ser	Ile	Leu	His 340	Leu	Met	Ser	Asp	Ala 345	Pro	Arg	Glu	Tyr	Asp 350	Glu	Ile
Ile	Leu	Glu		Leu	Glv	Ser	Ala		Leu	Met	Leu	Thr		Thr	Tvr
		355			7		360					365			4
Gln	Glu	Gln	Ser	Thr	Met		Phe	Lys	Glu	Leu		Lys	Leu	Ser	Tyr
Cvs	370 Val	Glv	Ala	TIP	T.e11	375 Asn	Tvr	T.e11	Tvr	Glu	380 Glv	Ala	Tro	Val	Ara
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	Pro	Thr	Arg	Arg	Ser	Ser	Phe	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Ala	Pro	Lys	Cys	Ser
T10	Ser	Dra	Com	405	7	Dra	Com	Crea	410 Clu	Turo	Ton	Ton	T	415 Sor	Two
TTG	SET	FIU	420	тте	ALQ	FIU	Ser	425	Gru	цур	ьец	ьец	430	Ser	тър
Ile	Gln	Phe	Leu	Pro	Leu	Asn	Ala	Val	Tyr	His	Pro	Pro	Gln	Leu	Pro
710	Asp	435	C1	C1	C1	Com	440	C1	T b 20	Vol	Dhe	445	Val	ILio	T
ALA	450	ALA	Giù	Gry	Gru	455	ALA	Gru	TIIT	val	460	Leu	val	птр	цуб
Ala	Phe	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Ser		Ala	Val	Ile	Tyr	Arg
465	a 1	m 1		0	470	01 -	m 1	0	m 1	475	m 1	D	7	Mal	480
Thr	Gly	Thr	HIS	Ser 485	GIN	GIN	Thr	Ser	1nr 490	Ala	Thr	Pro	Asn	Met 495	GLU
Gly	Leu	Arg	Ala		Thr	Ser	Gln	Ile		Lys	Val	Leu	Ala		Leu
			500					505	_			_	510		
Gln	Gly	Met 515	GLY	Leu	Leu	Gln	Phe 520	Leu	Pro	GLY	Ala	Ser 525	Val	Thr	Ile
Leu	Met		Ala	Val	Glu	Ala		Leu	Leu	Asp	Leu		Gly	Ser	Asp
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	Met	Val	Arg	Arg		Ala	Met	Ser	Asn		Tyr	Ala	Cys	Glu	
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ліа	лта	лец	1110	цец 565	HC L	GTII	лта	тут	570	T 11 T	ліа	Gru	HC L	575	va⊥
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Print Out (Original in Electronic Form)

0-2 0-3	International Application No. Applicant's or agent's file reference	PCT/EP2006/060864 24403WO
0-1-1	Material (PCT Rule 13bis) Prepared Using	
0-1	Form PCT/RO/134 (SAFE) Indications Relating to Deposited Microorganism(s) or Other Biological	

1	The indications made below relate to the deposited microorganism(s) or other biological material referred to in the description on:	
1-1	page	14
1-2	line	10
1-3	Identification of deposit	
1-3-1	Name of depositary institution	CBS Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures
1-3-2	Address of depositary institution	Uppsalalaan 8, NL-3584 CT Utrecht, The Netherlands / P.O. Box 85167, NL-3508 AD Utrecht, The Netherlands
1-3-3	Date of deposit	10 August 1998 (10.08.1998)
1-3-4	Accession Number	CBS 513.88
1-4	Additional Indications	Aspergillus Niger DS2975
1-5	Designated States for Which Indications are Made	all designations
1-6	Separate Furnishing of Indications	Form 134 added as separate indication concerning microorganism to be included in the specification
	These indications will be submitted to the International Bureau later	

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	This form was received with the international application:	
	(yes or no)	
0-4-1	Authorized officer	

FOR INTERNATIONAL BUREAU USE ONLY

	This form was received by the international Bureau on:	
0-5-1	Authorized officer	