

## **New Glyphosate-Tolerant Corn From Athenix Demonstrates Superior Performance**

**Research Triangle Park, N.C. – August 14th, 2007** – Corn plants featuring a new class of genes discovered by Athenix Corp. have shown that they can withstand at least eight times the standard field rate of glyphosate recommended for currently available glyphosate-tolerant corn, new field trial results confirm.

Even after being sprayed with glyphosate at such a high rate, corn plants in the trials display absolutely no signs of injury. The results show great promise for giving corn growers a broader margin of safety in using the popular glyphosate herbicide, said Mike Koziel, president and CEO of Athenix, a leading biotechnology company developing novel products, technologies and processes for agricultural and industrial applications.

"Our new genes provide the highest levels of glyphosate tolerance available," said Koziel, adding that corn lines containing these genes also survived multiple sprays at different stages of their life cycle. "We are moving this product through development and registration as quickly as possible."

This new class of glyphosate-tolerant genes encodes enzymes capable of providing high levels of tolerance to glyphosate, and Athenix has filed for broad patent protection of their technology. The company expects to submit a regulatory package in the U.S. for corn containing one of its new genes in late 2008. These genes are also being introduced into soybeans for the production of herbicide-tolerant lines which will soon be available for testing.

"Athenix is committed to providing growers with the most advanced trait stacks," said Nick Duck, Athenix vice president of research. "New trait stacks — such as this new glyphosate-tolerant gene combined with our nematode and insect resistance technologies — are vital for helping growers meet increasing production needs. Corn plants with these new genes demonstrate improved resistance and vigor to glyphosate applications, which could result in increased yields while maintaining outstanding weed control at recommended spray rates.

"Athenix continues to demonstrate the high efficacy of its proprietary genes in plants under field conditions. These trials confirm that Athenix has commercial quality traits and lines and the company continues to move these products quickly towards commercialization," added Nadine Carozzi, Athenix vice president of product development.

### **About Athenix Corp.**

Athenix is a leading biotechnology company that develops novel products and technologies for agricultural and industrial applications, including biofuels and bioconversions. Athenix has established an outstanding intellectual property portfolio and market access ability around enhanced plants, microbes, genes, enzymes, and processes with emphasis on two major markets: 1) novel agricultural traits for growers such as insect resistance, nematode resistance, herbicide tolerance, and their use for the crop production industry; and 2) the discovery of genes and proteins for use in the sustainable chemical industry with a focus on biofuels like ethanol and other natural products. For more information, please visit [www.athenixcorp.com](http://www.athenixcorp.com)

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