

## **Discussion of Trade Secrets in the Enzyme Industry**

As everyone in the enzymatic industry knows, the production of enzymes requires plasmids, strains or media. There are many commercial choices in the market, and their performance can meet almost all current enzymatic production needs. However, there is the chance when you use some suppliers' enzymes or enzyme kits and the supplier claims that their plasmids, strains, or media are trade secrets, you might put yourself in the danger of misappropriating the supplier's trade secret, regardless of whether the so-called trade secrets have been published. Moreover, some suppliers may even claim sequences with high homology to the published plasmid (for example with over 90% identities) also as trade secrets though those different sequences are of an astronomical figure and most if not all of them are useless with fetal mutations. Using such enzymes or kits, and carrying a trace of plasmids or media into you own enzymes might subject you to the misappropriation of the supplier's trade secret. Therefore, be sure to ask if all or part of plasmids, strains or media are trade secrets before using any enzymes or enzyme kits.

There are many public domain plasmids, strains or media on the market for enzyme production to allow one to easily avoid using those "trade secret" materials. EnzymeWorks mostly apply commercially available pET plasmids, which have advantages over most other plasmids for enzyme production with high density and lower costs. This type of plasmids can also be integrated with phage-resistant strains in non-animal origin media for enzyme production in absence of antibiotics.

As the enzyme industry for biocatalysis is at an early stage, we have not only technical problems to solve, but the legal pitfall to avoid. Picking the right company will save your time and money in the long run. As an industry leader, EnzymeWorks is willing to share not only the technical solutions but also the lessons dealing with patents and trade secret issues.