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FOR RELEASE
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COMBIMATRIX'S PARTNER NANOMATERIALS DISCOVERY CORPORATION ISSUED KEY NANOTECH PATENT

Newport Beach, Calif. – (BUSINESS WIRE) – February11, 2004 – Acacia Research Corporation (Nasdaq: CBMX:ACTG) announced today that its CombiMatrix group's joint product development partner, Nanomaterials Discovery Corporation (NDC), has been granted U.S. Patent No. 6,683,446, entitled "Electrode array for development and testing of materials," ("the '446 patent"). CombiMatrix and NDC will share revenues on sales of new materials and tools under a Joint Product Development and License Agreement.

"The development of new nanostructured materials for commercial applications has traditionally been a cumbersome process," said Dr. Don Montgomery, President and CEO of NDC. "Electrochemistry offers the most comprehensive, reproducible and well-vetted approach to developing new nanostructured materials. The methods disclosed in the '446 patent allow us to accelerate the pace of discovery of new nanomaterials by a factor of over a thousand when compared to traditional approaches."

"We are encouraged by the issuance of this patent and we look forward to a productive relationship under our collaboration," said Dr. Amit Kumar, President and CEO of CombiMatrix. "We expect the new nanotechnology initiatives sponsored by the Federal Government will help emerging nanotech companies develop innovative technology and new products."

NDC has a long-standing research partnership with the University of Wyoming that has focused on using electrode arrays to search for new catalysts for fuel cells, new cathode materials for rechargeable lithium batteries, and new phosphors for flat panel displays. The partnership has received substantial funding from the Office of Naval Research, Department of Energy, and the National Science Foundation.

ABOUT NANOMATERIALS DISCOVERY CORPORATION

NDC combines the power of nanotechnology with the high-throughput preparation and screening capabilities of combinatorial chemistry to develop and refine new nanostructured materials. Founded by The Blue Sky Group Inc. of Laramie, Wyoming in 2003, NDC has partnered with CombiMatrix Corporation of Washington. More information is available on the web at www.nanomaterialsdiscovery.com.

ABOUT ACACIA RESEARCH CORPORATION

Acacia Research Corporation comprises two operating groups, Acacia Technologies Group and CombiMatrix Group.

The CombiMatrix group is developing a platform technology to rapidly produce customizable active biochips, which are semiconductor-based tools for use in identifying and determining the roles of genes, gene mutations and proteins. CombiMatrix's technology has a wide range of applications including DNA synthesis/diagnostics, siRNA synthesis, drug discovery, and immunochemical detection. CombiMatrix provides DNA arrays to researchers under the CustomArray™ brand.

CombiMatrix's Express Track℠ drug discovery program is a systems biology approach, using its technology, to target common viral diseases with siRNA compounds. The initial focus of Express Track℠ includes the following viral diseases:

Virus	Collaborator
SARS	NIAID/USAMRIID
HIV type 1	irsiCaixa-Dr. Bonaventura Clotet
HIV type 2	To Be Announced
West Nile virus	To Be Announced
Human Papillomavirus type 16	To Be Announced
Human Herpes 8 (Kaposi's sarcoma)	To Be Announced
Smallpox (Variola)	To Be Announced
Influenza virus A	To Be Announced
Influenza virus B	To Be Announced
Hepatitis C	To Be Announced

CombiMatrix is also establishing applications of its arrays through other partnerships as follows:

Project	Collaborator
Cancer Diagnosis (Lymphoma)	University of Washington/Rational Diagnostics
RNA Drug Targets	Professor Gregory L. Verdine, Harvard University
Parasite	
Leishmania	Seattle Biomedical Research Institute
Trypasonoma	Seattle Biomedical Research Institute

The Acacia Technologies group licenses its Digital Media Transmission (DMT) technology to media and electronics companies. The DMT technology covers the transmission and receipt of digital audio and digital video content, commonly known as audio on-demand, video on-demand, and audio/video streaming, and is supported by 5 U.S. and 31 foreign patents.

Acacia Research-Acacia Technologies (Nasdaq: ACTG) and Acacia Research-CombiMatrix (Nasdaq:CBMX) are both classes of common stock issued by Acacia Research Corporation and are intended to reflect the performance of the respective operating groups and are not issued by the operating groups.

Information about Acacia Research Corporation and the Acacia Technologies group is available at www.acaciaresearch.com. Information about the CombiMatrix group is available at www.combimatrix.com.

Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995:

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon our current expectations and speak only as of the date hereof. Our actual results may differ materially and adversely from those expressed in any forward-looking statements as a result of various factors and uncertainties, including the recent economic slowdown affecting technology companies, our ability to successfully develop products, rapid technological change in our markets, changes in demand for our future products, legislative, regulatory and competitive developments and general economic conditions. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, recent and forthcoming Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, recent Current Reports on Forms 8-K and 8-K/A, and other SEC filings discuss some of the important risk factors that may affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. We undertake no obligation to revise or update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason.