

A *PSEUDOMONAS FLUORESCENS*-BASED PLATFORM VALIDATED FOR RAPID CANDIDATE SELECTION AND ACCELERATED CMC DEVELOPMENT

www.pelicanexpression.com

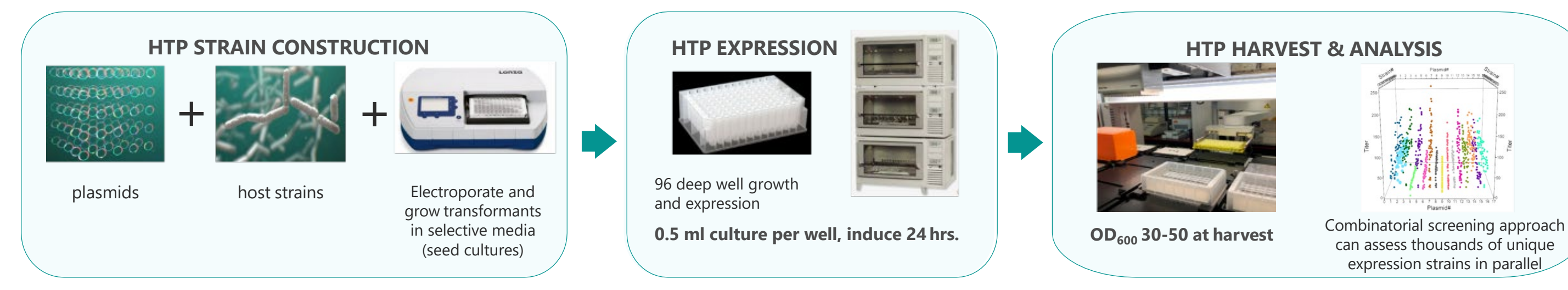
Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc., San Diego, California

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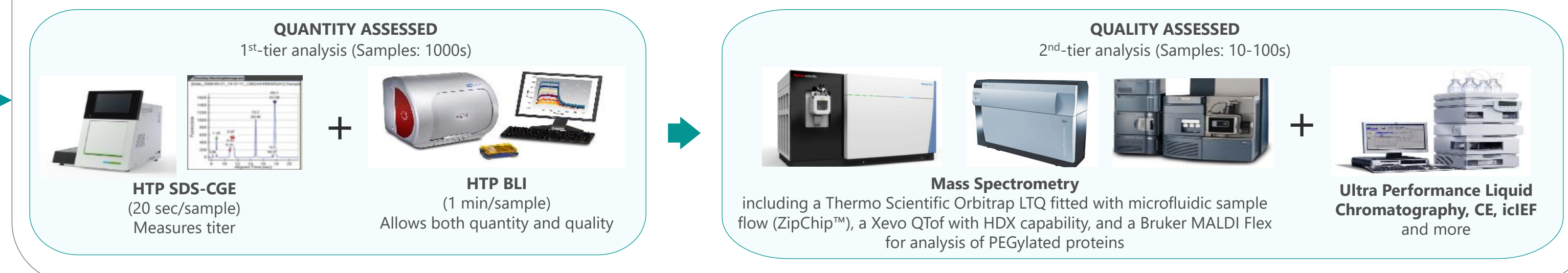
The Pelican Expression Technology™ platform is a validated and versatile expression system for developing protein therapeutics from concept-to-clinic. With over 20 years of experience and 4 commercially approved products, the proven platform enables rapid candidate selection and accelerated CMC development for a wide range of complex modalities. Over 175 lead proteins, including difficult-to-produce proteins that failed to express in *E.coli*, yeast, and mammalian cells such as CHO, have been successfully produced using Pelican Expression Technology™. The combination of high-throughput strain screening, advanced analytics, state-of-the-art fermentation capabilities between 1 and 100L production in-house, complementary purification development capabilities from HTP to bench and pilot-scale, and proven technology transfer experience renders the platform capable of progressing from gene to production scale in under 12 weeks.

Platform Development and Integrated Process Development

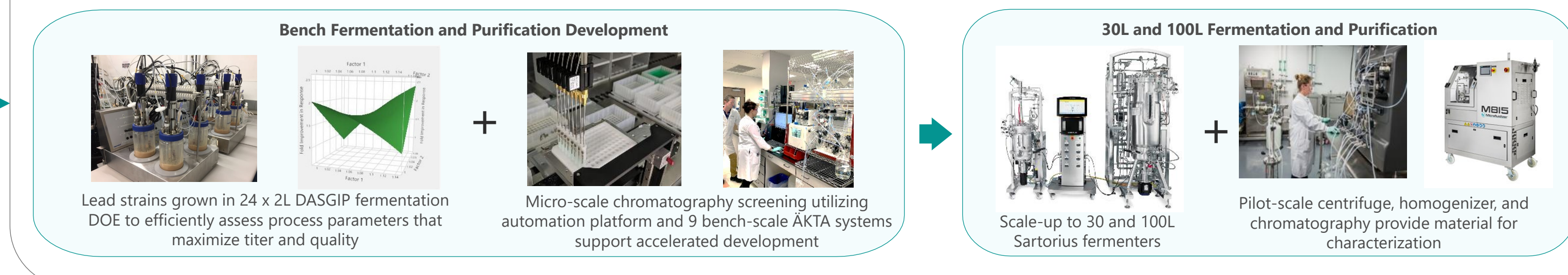
Automation-enabled HTP Strain Construction, Expression, and Analysis



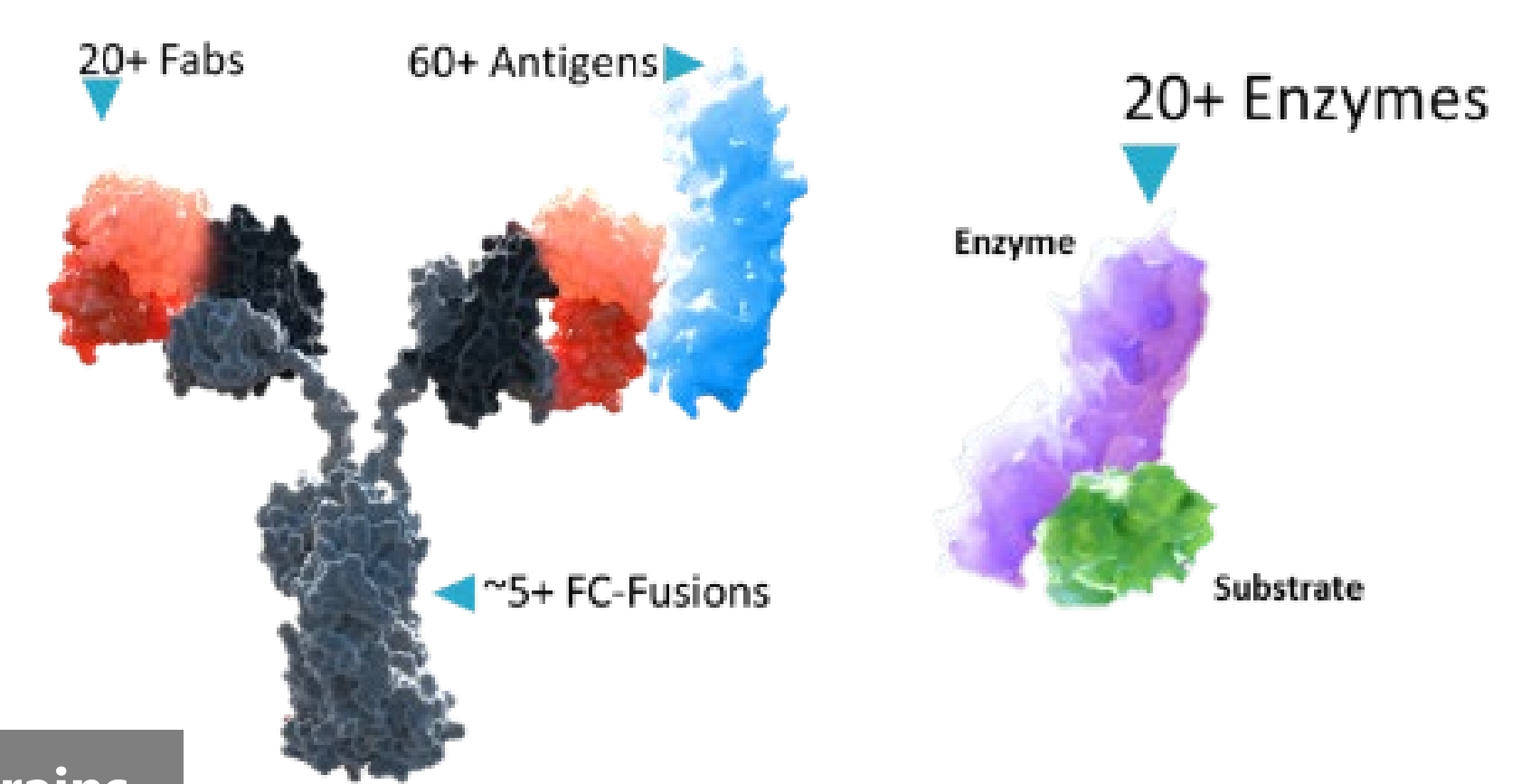
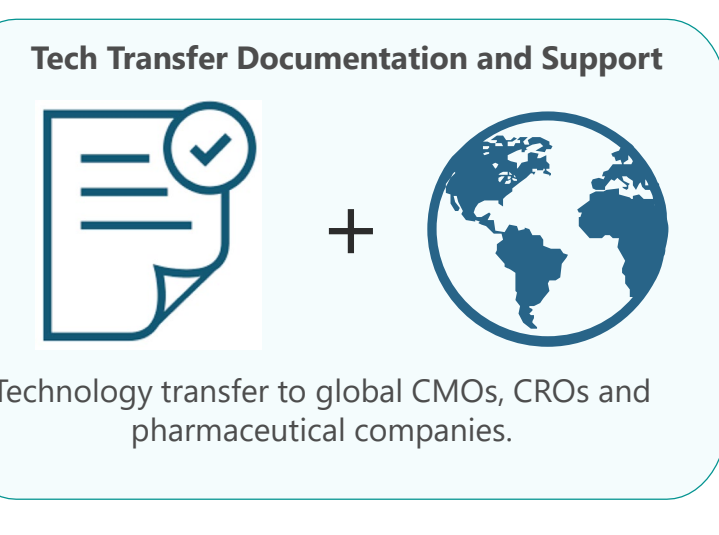
Product titer and quality assessed early in pipeline to down select to candidate production strains



Bench to pilot scale fermentation and purification for efficient process development and scale up



Technology Transfer

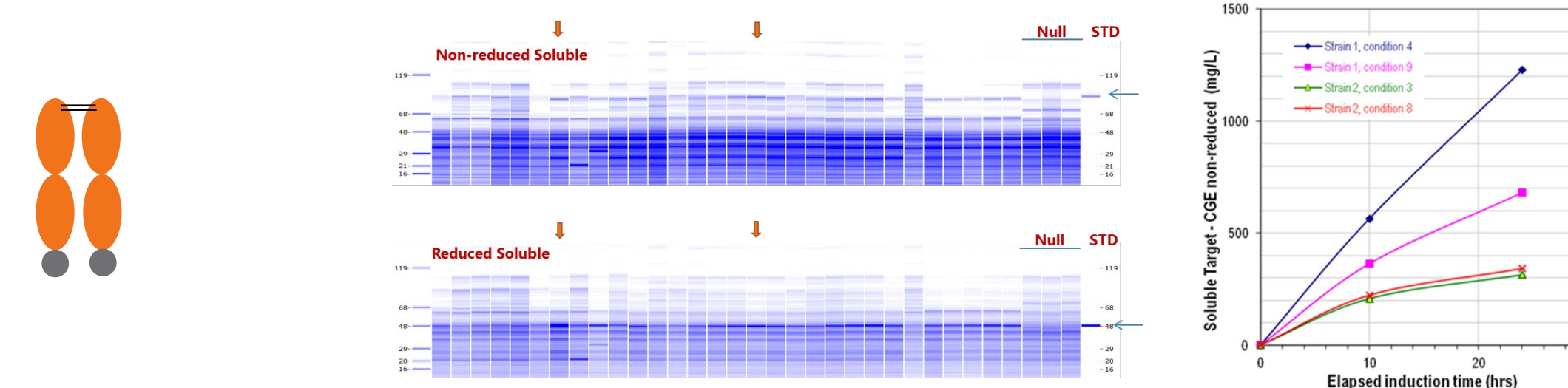


Case Studies

Fc fusion protein expression

Challenge: Insoluble *E. coli* expression/refold but soluble expression desired

- Background:**
 - 400 unique strains evaluated
 - 10 expression plasmids
 - 40 host strains
 - Screen for soluble expression of dimeric Fc fusion, protein A binding
- Strain engineering (96-well plate):**
 - SDS-CGE detected induced bands (blue arrow) in non-reduced and reduced soluble samples
 - Protein A binding (BLI) correlates with non-reduced SDS-CGE titer
 - Red arrow: strains selected for fermentation assessment
- Fermentation Assessment (2 L):**
 - Down-selected strains assessed at 2 L scale under multiple induction conditions
 - SDS-CGE → >1g/L
 - 3-10X improvement over 0.5mL scale

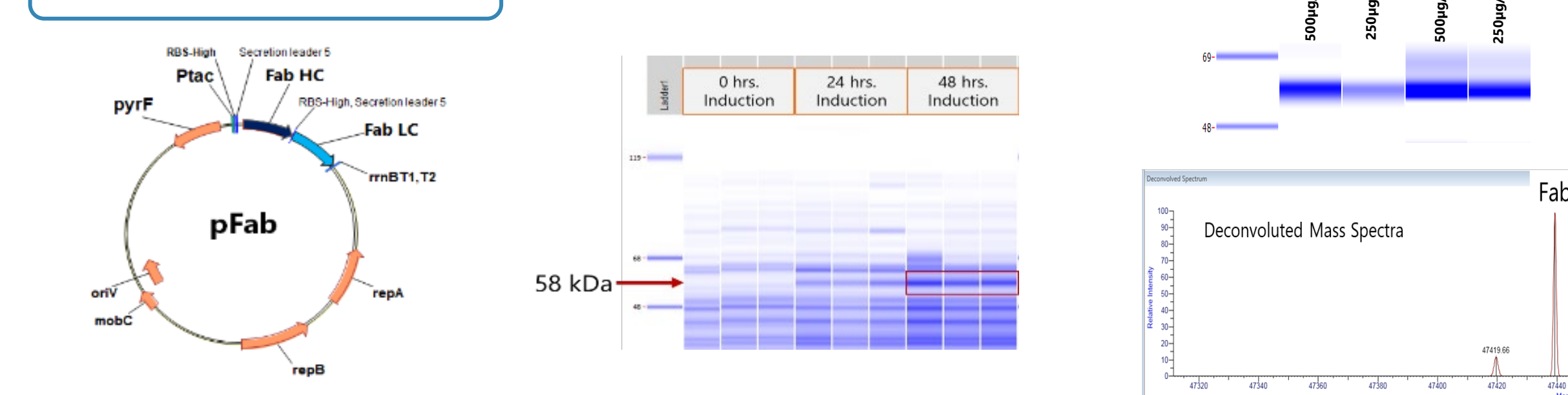


SOLUTION: Production strain with highest soluble titer identified for further development

FAB antibody fragment titer improvement

Challenge: Low titer with *E. coli* platform not sufficient for clinical supply | Cost-effective process requires higher titers

- Strain Engineering (96-well plates):**
 - 800 unique strains
 - 160 expression plasmids
 - 40 combinations of secretion leaders, RBS, and codon optimization
 - HTP SDS-CGE and BLI to rank strains
- Fermentation Assessment (2 L):**
 - Down-selected strains assessed at 2 L scale under multiple induction conditions
 - SDS-CGE and BLI
- Quality Assessment:**
 - 58 kDa Fab confirmed by LC-MS after enrichment culture
 - Further development of product in progress



SOLUTION: Production strain with highest quality and titer identified for further development

Approved Products



Summary

The Pelican Expression Technology™ can deliver significant competitive advantages in expressing lead protein candidates with its diverse toolbox and automation. With an array of robust high throughput methods, viable production strains can quickly be identified for further development and scale-up.

PELICAN™
P. fluorescens expression technology

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