



Frequently Asked Questions by ARC Stakeholders – November 2022

Responses developed in collaboration with, and endorsed by, Ozgene Pty Ltd.

Q 1: Who is the preferred provider for the Animal Resources Centre (ARC)?

A:

- Ozgene Pty Ltd (Ozgene) was identified as the preferred provider of ARC capability moving forward.
- Ozgene is a WA company that has been operating for over 20 years as a provider of genetically modified mice for the research community.
- Ozgene's headquarter is in Technology Park, Bentley, WA, and it operates vivariums in Australia and the USA. The USA operation is fully AAALAC accredited.
- AAALAC accreditation is also planned for the Australian Ozgene and Ozgene ARC operations in 2023.
- Ozgene offer a full spectrum of pre-clinical capabilities from the development of mouse models through to breeding, characterisation and phenotyping.
- Ozgene has clients across a diverse range of scientific disciplines coming from both domestic and international, universities, research institutes, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies.
- Ozgene was founded by research scientists and internally they continue to do novel scientific research.
- Ozgene has established a company 'Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd' (Ozgene ARC) that will be focused on continuing the great work of the ARC.

Q 2: What is the plan for the transition of the ARC to Ozgene and new premises?

A:

- Following the transition of the ARC's operations to Ozgene ARC, Ozgene ARC will operate from the existing ARC premises at Murdoch University during 2023.
- Ozgene ARC intend to repurpose another leased premises and to relocate from the current Murdoch University site to this retrofitted facility as an initial measure to upgrade the ARC infrastructure.
- In the medium term, Ozgene also intends to construct a new purpose-built vivarium on land it already owns in Technology Park, Bentley.

- The timing of the transition from the retrofitted facility to the new purpose-built vivarium will depend on construction timeframes.
- Ozgene have experience with their previous vivarium relocations in relocating thousands of animals from ARC to Technology Park in the early 2000's, and this expertise will be important with the ARC transition from Murdoch to new premises.
- Ozgene has carefully planned each step of the transfer process to ensure the wellbeing, safety and specific pathogen free (SPF) status of the animals.
- Through this process the State Government is working with the ARC to ensure continuity of products and services for people who routinely use the ARC's services.

Q 3: What are the short term implications for existing ARC customers?

A:

- The ARC will engage with clients and suppliers regarding novation of existing contracts to Ozgene ARC.
- Ozgene will contact clients and suppliers in due time to establish new contracts.
- Ozgene will endeavour to ensure that ARC customers' experience dealing with the ARC throughout the transition is impacted as little as possible, and is eager to maintain and further strengthen its relationships with its customers.

Q 4: What animal models will be available from Ozgene ARC?

A:

- Ozgene ARC will continue to provide **all** animal models currently available from the ARC.
- Clients can expect similar flexibility in ordering common strains of animals.
- New strains will be available and imported from JAX USA.
- Ozgene are in discussions with JAX to ensure current ARC animal strain agreements continue.
- New custom strains will continue to be created by Ozgene as it has done over the past 23 years.

Q 5: What are OzgeneARC's plans for pricing?

A:

- Animal and service pricing will be available as per ARC pricelist at least until 30 June 2023.
- The intention is to provide competitive pricing to clients, which is enabled through customised management processes.

Q 6: What are Ozgene's plans for improving processes, systems and services?

A:

- Ozgene will digitise all colony management and animal information to optimise and improve vivarium operations.
- Ozgene is planning to upgrade the entire ARC vivarium to IVC cages and latest washing technology to the level of USA AAALAC accredited processes.

Q 7: What will happen to the ARC staff?

A:

- Permanent ARC staff have three broad options available to them:
 - redeployment within the public sector,
 - voluntary severance, or
 - transfer to employment with Ozgene ARC.
- It is expected that each of these options will be taken up by different staff depending on their personal circumstances and preferences.
- ARC management will support all staff through the transition process.
- As at November 2022, Ozgene ARC representatives and ARC are in negotiations with regards to ARC staff about their various options.

Q 8: Will the ARC need to stay at Murdoch University beyond the current lease?

A:

- Currently, Ozgene ARC aims to move the ARC operations from the aging facility at Murdoch University to a new location within the current lease timeframe.
- Murdoch University has confirmed it is willing to negotiate to extend the lease for the ARC facility for up to six months beyond the current lease that ends in December 2023 should that be required.