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Spring Meeting to Examine Synthetic Biology and Its Opportunities

Alexandria, VA (February 19, 2018) — ALDA's 2018 Spring Meeting for Senior Executives will assess the prospects for synthetic biology, an effort to apply engineering concepts to biology, and provide insights on the business opportunities it will present for members of ALDA.

The Spring Meeting, one of ALDA's semi-annual meetings for presidents and senior executives, will be held on April 29-May 1 in Boston.

Synthetic biology is a dynamic space. Last year, more than US\$1 Billion was invested in synthetic biology companies and the number of companies grew to more than 400. Potential applications are diverse and include medicine, industrial chemicals, food and ag-bio, clothing, flavors and fragrances, and the use of DNA for digital data storage.

The Spring Meeting program will feature thought leaders from the synthetic biology sector including CEOs from two companies offering valuable insights on the size of the synthetic biology opportunity, where it is today, potential markets and applications, and what can our industry do to help make it a success.

Complementing the topical program, Robert M. Gates, the former U.S. Secretary of Defense under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, will assess the international geopolitical landscape and it is evolving.

In addition to Secretary Gates, our meeting will feature a group of speakers recognized as leaders in synthetic biology including:

- Dr. Ron Carlson, Managing Director of Bioeconomy Capital, a venture capital firm in the synthetic biology space and author of "*Biology is Technology: The Promise, Peril, and New Business of Engineering Life*".
- Dr. Jason Kelly, Founder & CEO of Ginkgo Bioworks. Ginkgo designs and produces custom microbes for customers across multiple markets, including in the health, nutrition, and consumer goods sectors.
- Dr. Oliver Fetzer, Chief Executive Officer of Synthetic Genomics Inc., a synthetic biology company founded by Craig Venter, focused on commercializing genomic-driven technologies and providing solutions in genomics research, bioproduction, and applied products.

For more information regarding ALDA, contact Mike Duff, President, at 703-647-6214. More information regarding ALDA, its purposes, objectives and programs, and links to its members' websites can be found at www.thealda.org.

Based in the Washington DC suburb of Alexandria, VA, ALDA is an industry trade association for companies that develop and supply life science, analytical and diagnostic products and services used to conduct research, drug discovery, QA/QC testing and diagnostics in a wide range of industries and applications. Major customer segments including pharmaceuticals, biotech, academic and government research, food safety and environmental testing, personalized medicine and diagnostics.

ALDA's Mission is to be an advocate for our industry and a valuable aid to our members' global business success and to their customers' advancement of healthcare, science and industrial innovation by providing meetings with strategic content, networking, global market and business intelligence, and insights on emerging technologies, markets and business strategies.