Title: METHOD AND PRODUCT

Abstract: A method of producing transformation competent bacteria, comprising the steps of: (i) transforming a bacteria that is not naturally transformation competent with a plasmid, wherein said plasmid comprises a comX gene sequence encoding a ComX protein or functional part or derivative or variant thereof under the regulatory control of a promoter which is inducible by a transcription initiator, (ii) contacting said transformed bacteria with said transcription initiator to initiate transcription of said comX gene sequence is provided. Also provided are plasmids, transformed bacteria, transformation competent bacteria, mutant bacteria and food products comprising said mutant bacteria.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**International application No**
PCT/GB2007/001664

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

<table>
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<th>INV.</th>
<th>C12N15/63</th>
<th>C12N15/20</th>
<th>C12N15/00</th>
<th>C07K14/315</th>
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, Sequence Search, EMBASE, FSTA, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
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<th>Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No</th>
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

* Special categories of cited documents

**X** later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

**"X"** document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

**"Y"** document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

**"Z"** document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 November 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/12/2007

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Pi ret, Bernard
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<td>X</td>
<td>LUO PING ET AL: &quot;ComX is a unique link between multiple quorum sensing outputs and competence in Streptococcus pneumoniae.&quot; MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 50, no. 2, October 2003 (2003-10), pages 623-633, XP002459395 ISSN: 0950-382X the whole document</td>
<td>1,4-16, 18-25, 27-36</td>
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