

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 12, 2018 (October 9, 2018)

NewLink Genetics Corporation
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-35342
(Commission
File Number)

42-1491350
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

2503 South Loop Drive
Ames, IA
(Address of principal executive offices)

50010
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(515) 296-5555**

Not applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act

Section 1 - Registrant's Business and Operations

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

Amendment to Merck Agreement

Effective October 9, 2018, BioProtection Systems Corporation, or BPS, a wholly owned subsidiary of NewLink Genetics Corporation ("we", "our" or the "Company") and Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp, or Merck, entered into an amendment, or the Merck Amendment, to the License and Collaboration Agreement between BPS and Merck dated November 21, 2014, as amended, or the Collaboration Agreement. The Merck Amendment clarifies and amends certain third-party agreements to be assigned to Merck, and defines and clarifies obligations surrounding the transition period and related costs, fees, obligations, timelines and remedies.

The foregoing description of the Merck Amendment is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the agreement, a copy of which will be filed with the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the year ending December 31, 2018, portions of which will be subject to a FOIA Confidential Treatment Request to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 24-b under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The omitted material will be included in the request for confidential treatment.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: October 12, 2018

NewLink Genetics Corporation

By: /s/ Carl W. Langren

Carl W. Langren

Its: Chief Financial Officer