

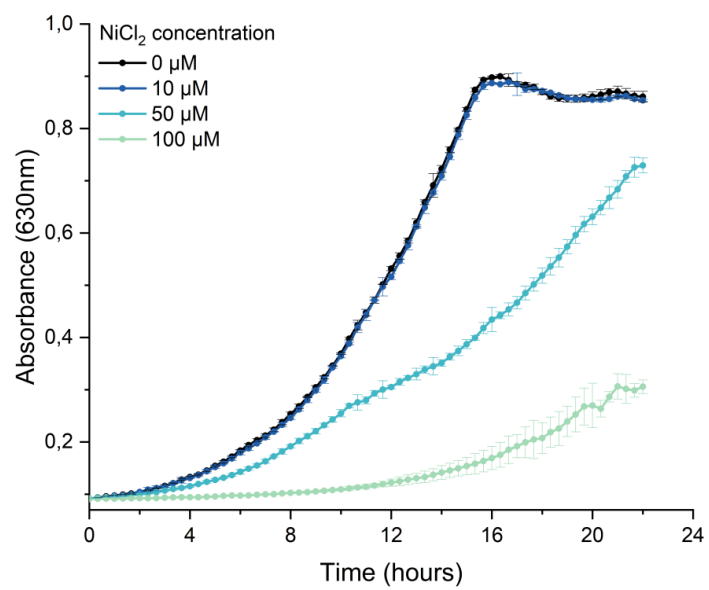
Supplementary information for:

**Simple and robust *in vivo* engineering of plasmid DNA at any copy number in
*Escherichia coli***

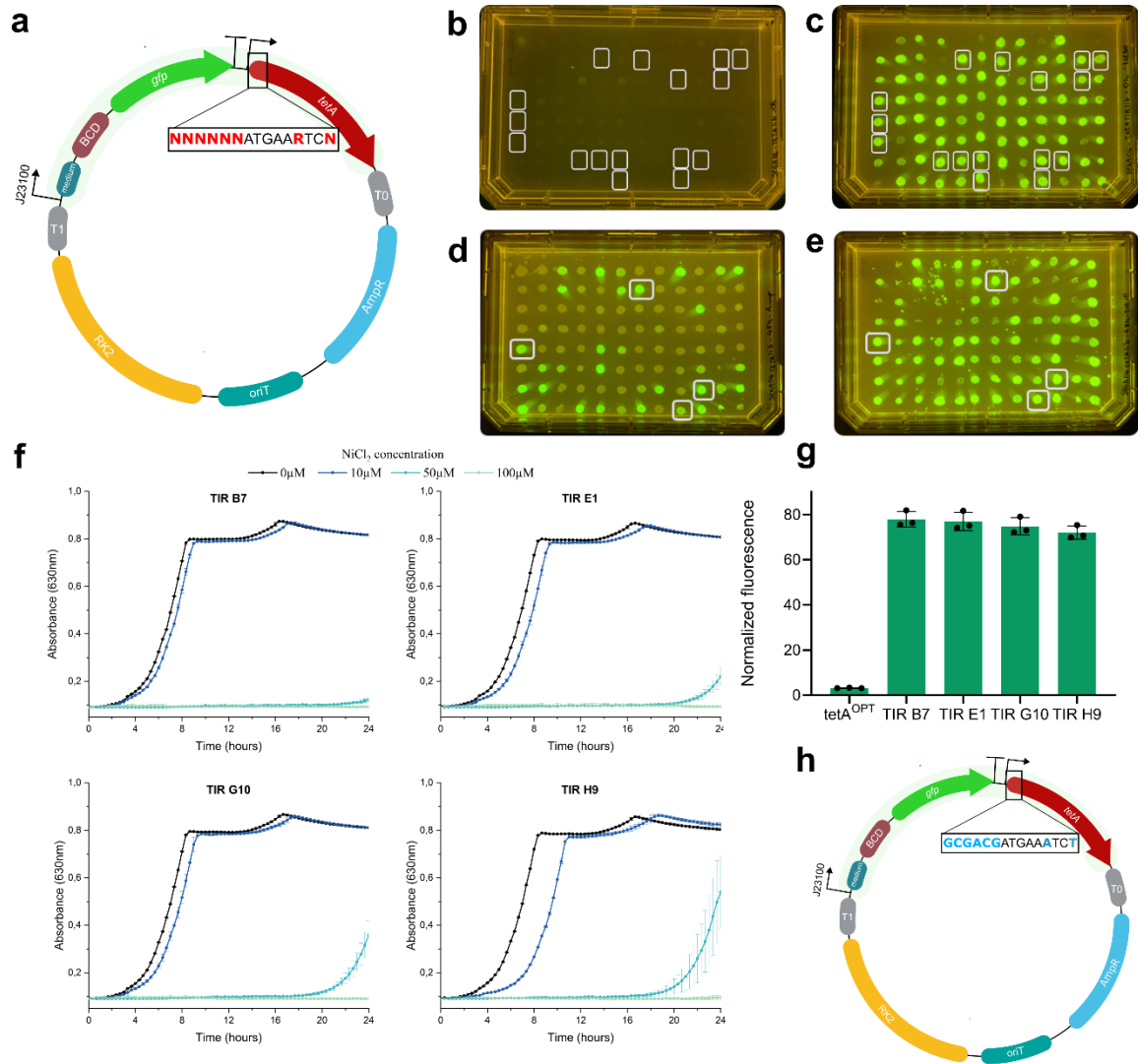
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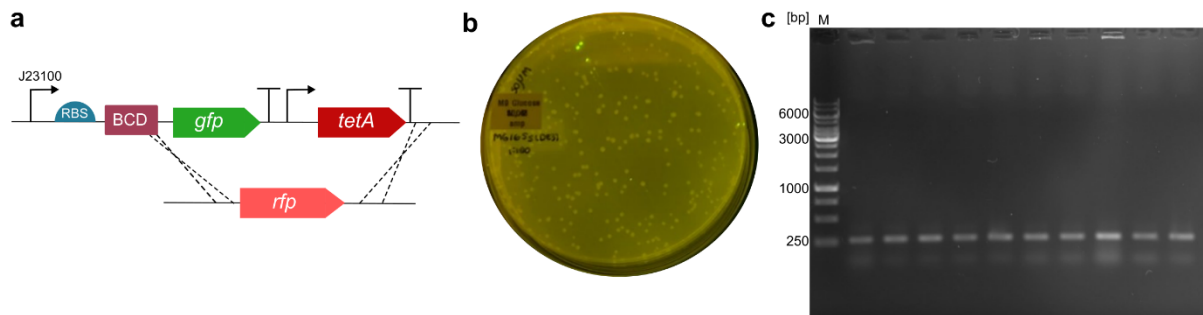
*Correspondence to MHHN, ghnmm@novonordisk.com



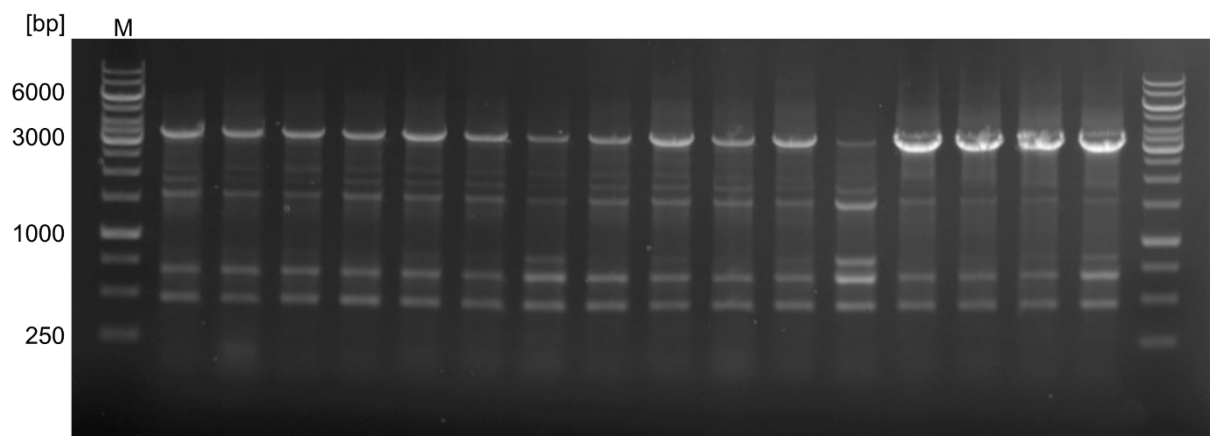
Supplementary Figure 1: Growth of *E. coli* K12-MG1655 (DE3) with pSEVA521 in the presence of different concentrations of NiCl_2 .



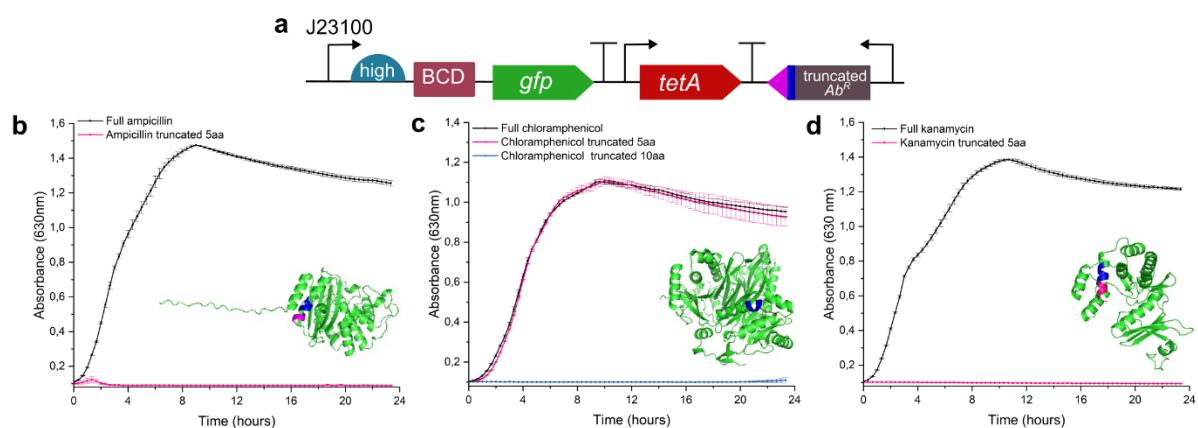
Supplementary Figure 2: *tetA* translation initiation region (TIR) optimization for stable maintenance in a RK2 plasmid. **a)** Illustration of the plasmid showing the double selection cassette together with the RK2 origin of replication. oriT is the origin of transference that allows for conjugative mobilization of plasmids into organisms in which no alternative transformation protocols are available. **b)** 94 TIR variants plated on M9 glucose supplemented with 50 μM of NiCl₂. 16 variants highlighted with white squares show no growth. **c)** 94 TIR variants plated on M9 glucose supplemented with tetracycline. **d)** After 48 hours of liquid growth in LB media, the cultures were spotted on plates with ampicillin or **e)** tetracycline and four variants selected for further analysis based on fluorescence (plasmid stability). **f)** The four variants were further characterized with regards to sensitivity to NiCl₂ and **g)** fluorescence in liquid culture. **h)** Illustration of the TIR B7 variant that was selected for the final selection cassette.



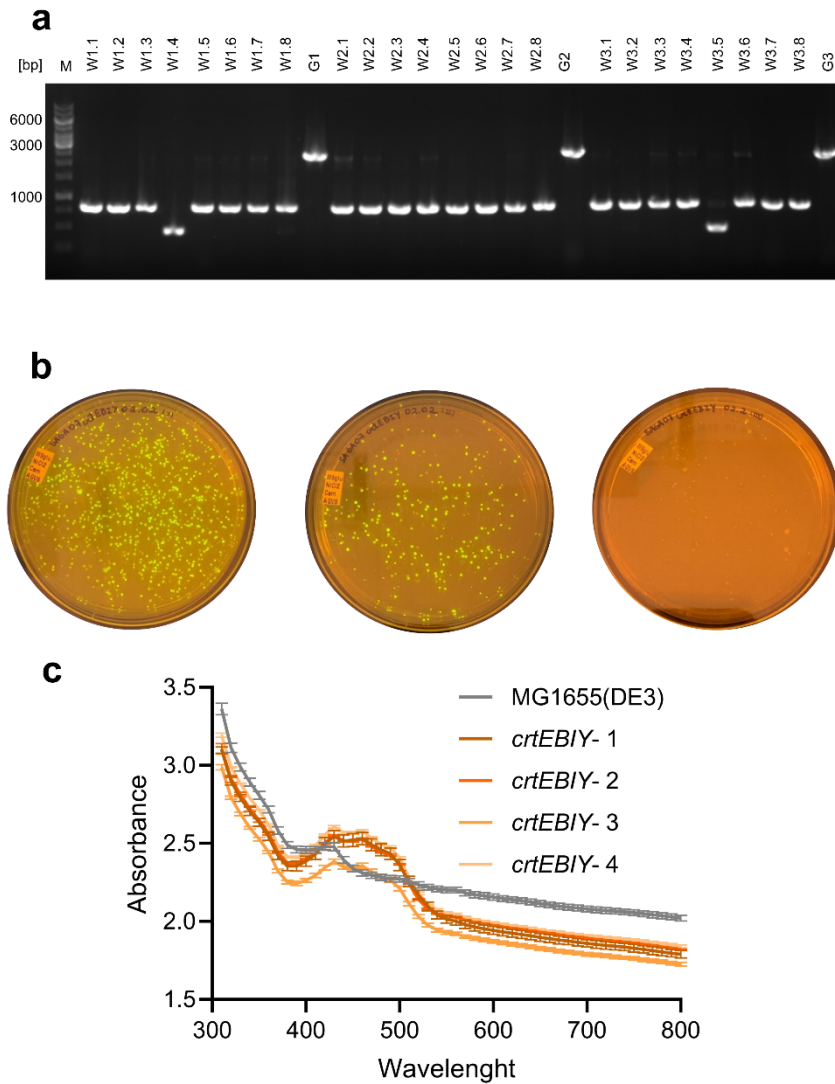
Supplementary Figure 3: Recombination of DNA fragments into the double selection cassette. a) Illustration of the genetic parts in the double selection cassette and in a DNA fragment encoding *rfp* to be integrated in the cassette. b) Representative plate showing the loss of fluorescence in the majority of colonies resulting from the attempted recombineering. c) PCR screening of 10 non-green colonies from the recombineering shows a 250 bp PCR product indicating absence of both the selection cassette and the *rfp* fragment.



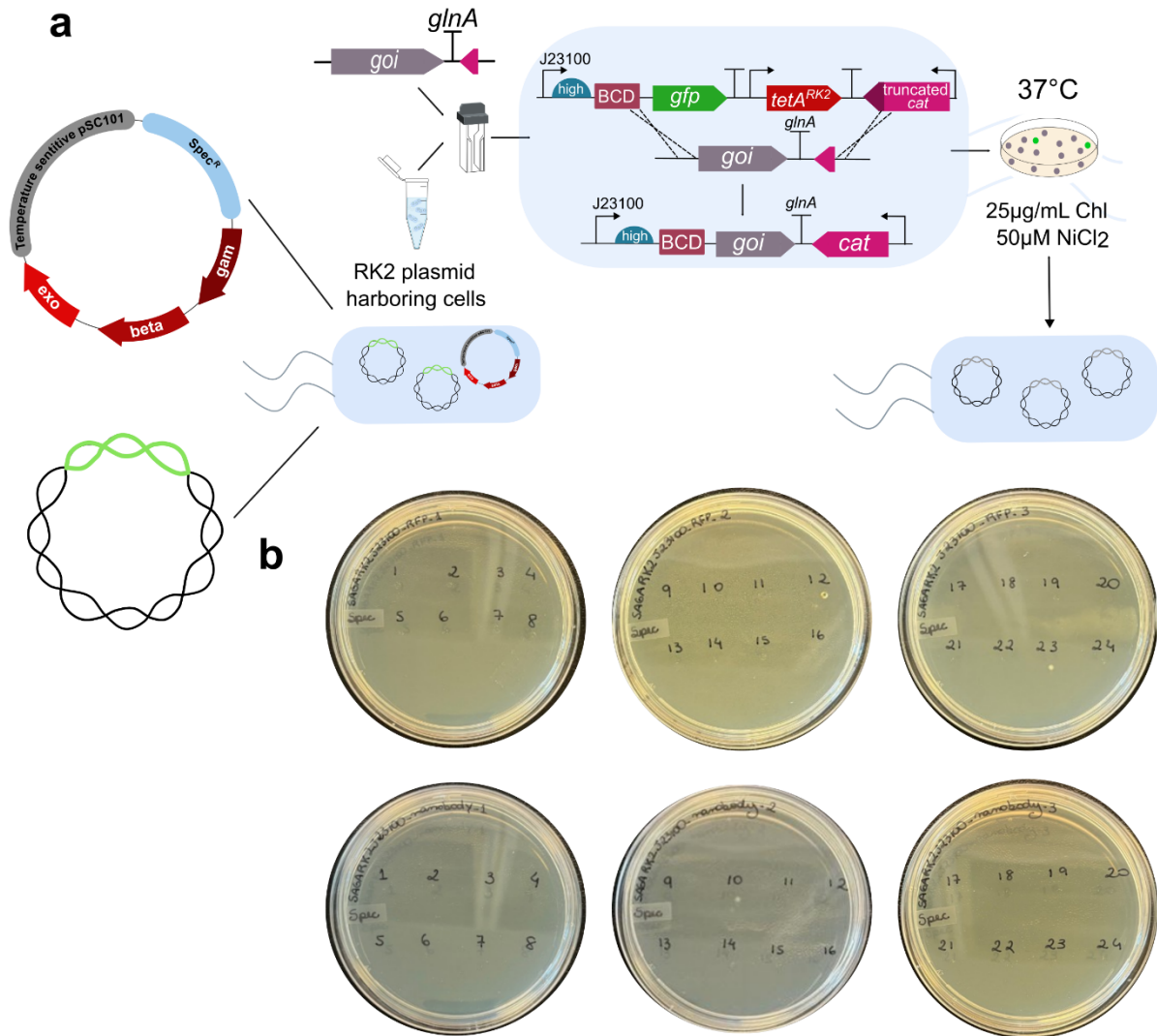
Supplementary Figure 4: PCR screening of colonies when attempting to complement a truncated promoter driving expression of an antibiotic resistance marker. The gel shows 16 individual colonies evaluated and shows a mix of differently sized PCR products: the original *gfp* 3439 bp, the *rfp* integrated 2126 bp and the version where the cassette was looped out 1569 bp, indicating inaccurate recombineering.



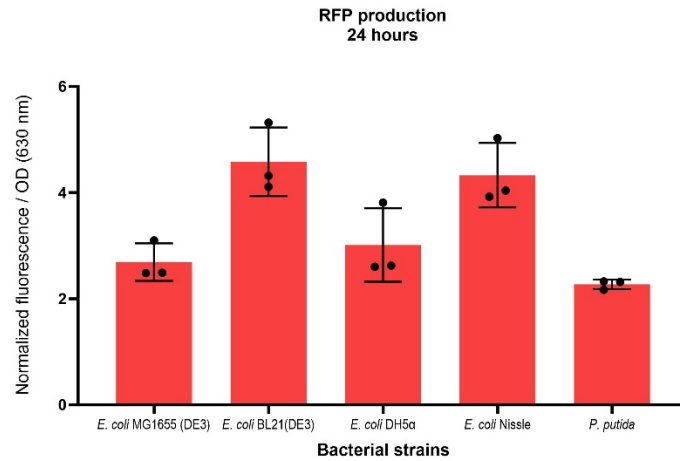
Supplementary Figure 5: Illustration of C-terminally truncated antibiotic resistance markers and analysis of the growth of truncated variants. **a)** Schematic representation of the system with antibiotic inversion. **b)** Growth in liquid culture with the full ampicillin resistance marker (black line) or with the five amino acid truncation (pink line) was evaluated in LB supplemented with 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ampicillin. **c)** Growth in liquid culture with the full chloramphenicol resistance marker (black line) or with the five (pink line) or 10-amino acid (blue line) truncation was evaluated in LB supplemented with 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ chloramphenicol. **d)** Growth in liquid culture with the full kanamycin resistance marker (black line) or with the five amino acid truncation (pink line) was evaluated in LB supplemented with 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ kanamycin. Structural analysis: based on the amino acid sequences for the antibiotic resistance markers, their structural model was generated using the web-based software SWISS-MODEL45. Ampicillin, based on beta-lactamase TEM (PDB: 1ZG4); Chloramphenicol, based on chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (PDB: 3U9B); and kanamycin based on aminoglycoside 3'-phosphotransferase AphA1-IAB (PDB: 4FEV). The figures of structural analyses were generated using PyMOL software (The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 1.8 Schrödinger, LLC, New York, NY, USA). The C-terminal five amino acids are colored in pink, and the next five amino acids colored in blue



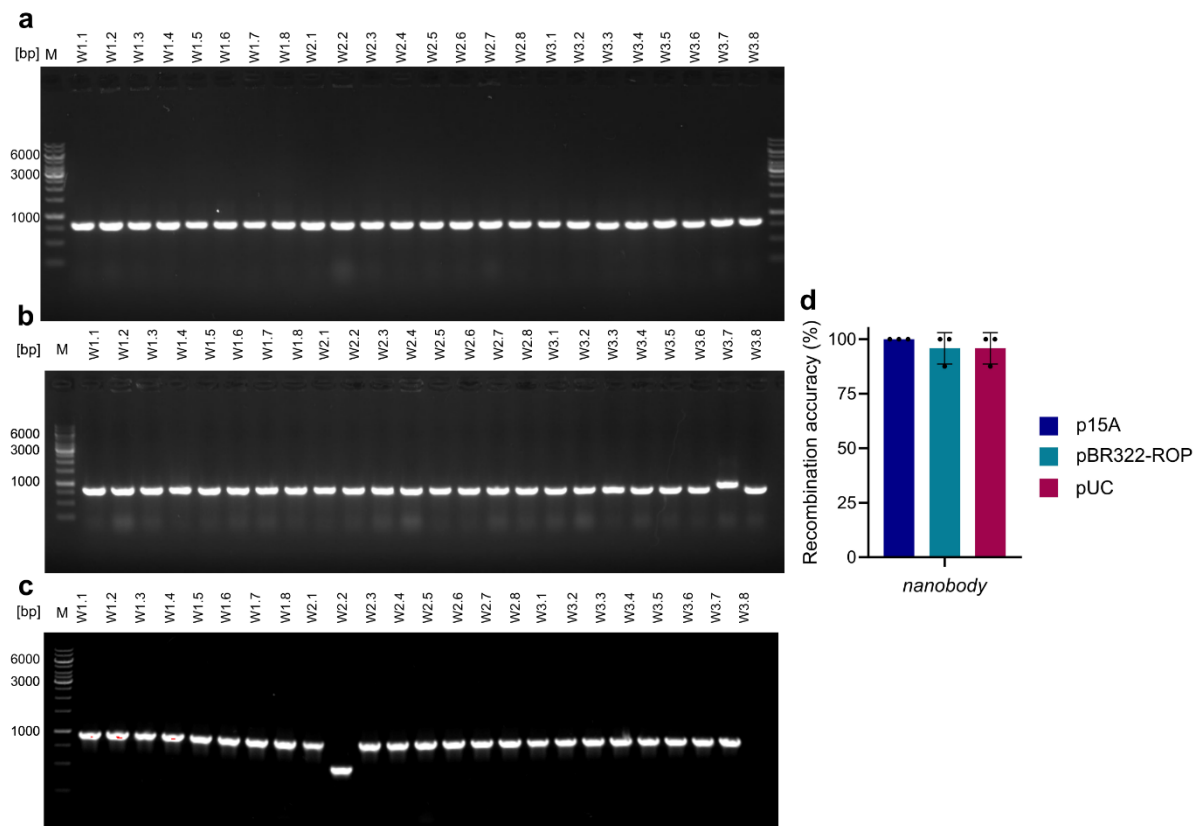
Supplementary Figure 6: Recombination of DNA fragments into the triple selection cassette. a) PCR screening of eight white colonies and one green colony from triplicate recombineering attempts with an antibody fragment. The expected size for the correct recombination was 826 bp, whereas the undisturbed triple selection cassette will lead to a 2510 bp PCR product. **b)** Triplicate plates showing large variation upon the attempted recombination of a large *crtEBIY* DNA fragment. **c)** The absorbance spectrum of four different positive colonies was evaluated as well, with the MG1655(DE3) as a control, all in triplicate. β -carotene has maximum absorbances at wavelengths around 450 nm and 470 nm, and we can observe a peak in this range on the clone variants, showing that the pathway is active.



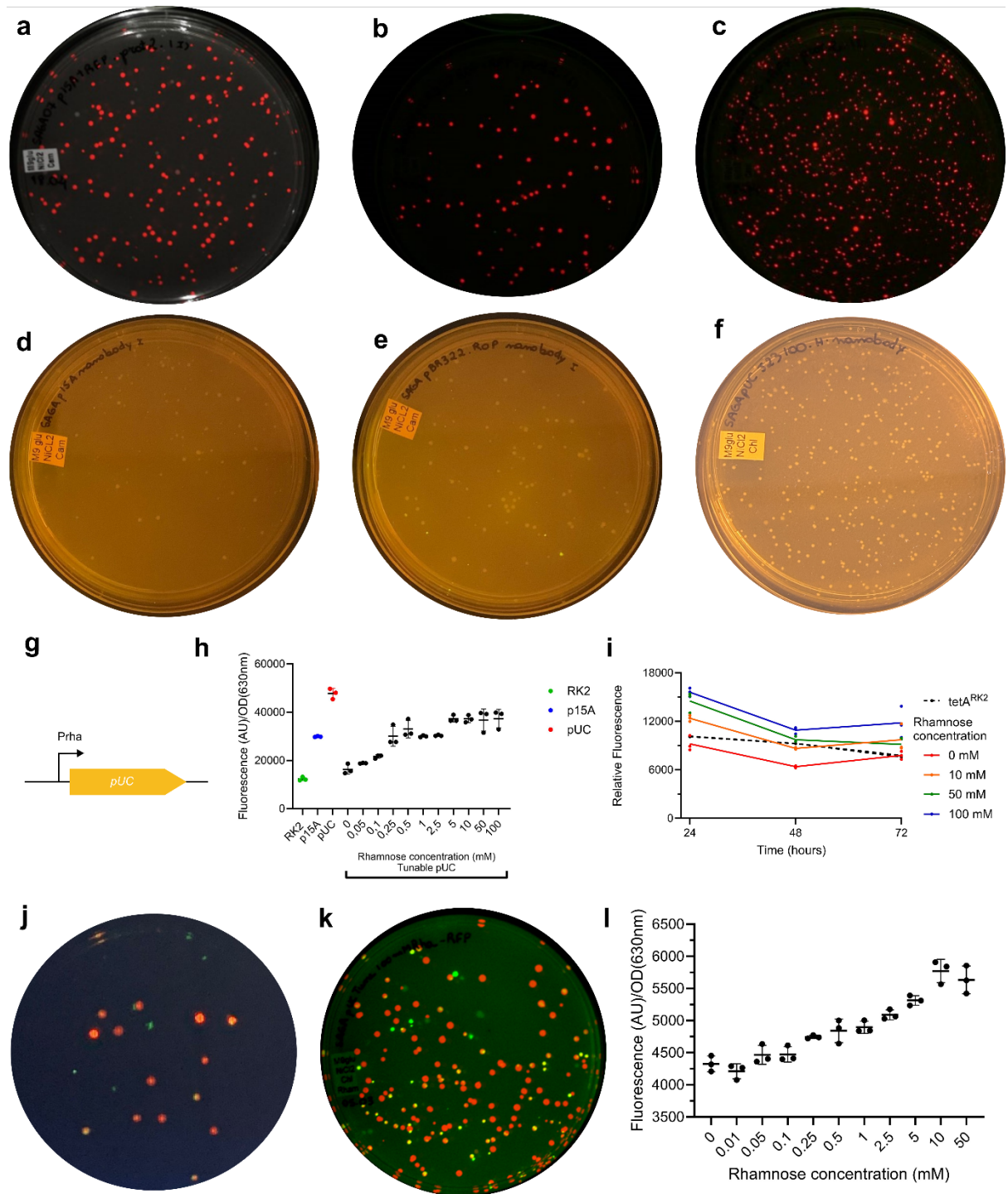
Supplementary Figure 7: Workflow of lambda-red auxiliary plasmid pSIM19 curing in the cloning process. a) Lambda-red genes *gam*, *beta*, and *exo* are expressed from an auxiliary plasmid pSIM19 hosting a temperature-sensitive origin of replication. Growth at 37 °C leads to loss of this plasmid. **b) In a test for pSIM19 loss, only two out of twenty-four colonies from the *rfp* and *nanobody* recombination were able to grow in the presence of spectinomycin (the antibiotic marker present on pSIM19).**



Supplementary Figure 8: Quantification of red fluorescence from RK2-*rfp* plasmids transferred to different hosts.

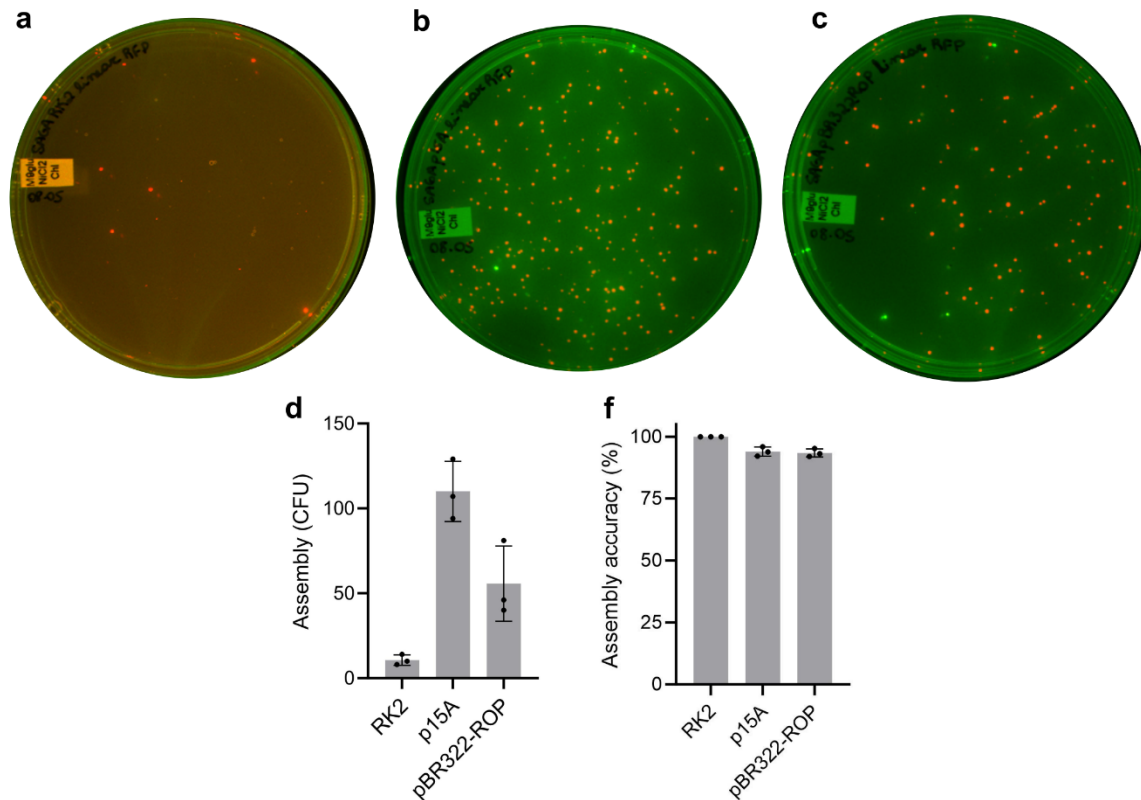


Supplementary Figure 9: PCR screening of colonies when recombineering the antibody fragment into higher copy number plasmids. Eight white colonies were selected from triplicate experiments with **a)** the p15A plasmid **b)** the pBR322-ROP plasmid and **c)** pUC plasmid. The expected size for the correct recombination is 826 bp, and for the unmodified triple selection cassette 2510 bp. **d)** Overall accuracy of the system was measured by integrating nanobody and verifying through PCR the size of the inserted elements; for the medium copy number, the accuracy was 100%, and for the high and super high copy number, the measured accuracy was $95 \pm 5\%$

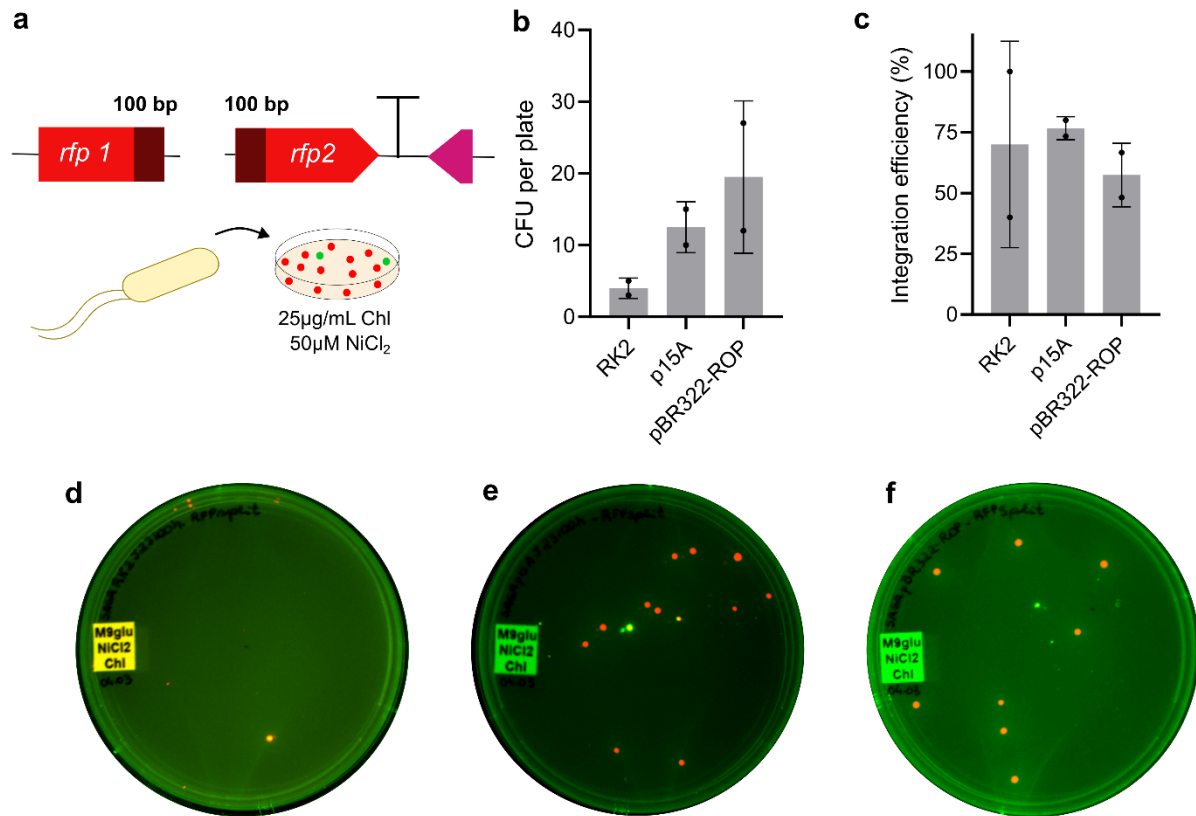


Supplementary Figure 10: Expansion of the triple-selection cassette for medium and high copy number plasmids. Representative plates from *rfp* DNA fragment recombining into plasmids with **a**) p15A, **b**) pBR322-ROP, **c**) pUC origins of replication and nanobody fragment recombining into plasmids with **d**) p15A, **e**) pBR322-ROP and **f**) pUC **g**) Illustration of the rhamnose-controlled copy number of pUC^{TUNE}. **h**) Fluorescence from pUC^{TUNE} with a constitutively expressed *gfp* with different rhamnose levels compared to the same expression cassette present in plasmids with the RK2, p15a, and pUC origins of replication. **i**) Stability of pUC^{TUNE} with the

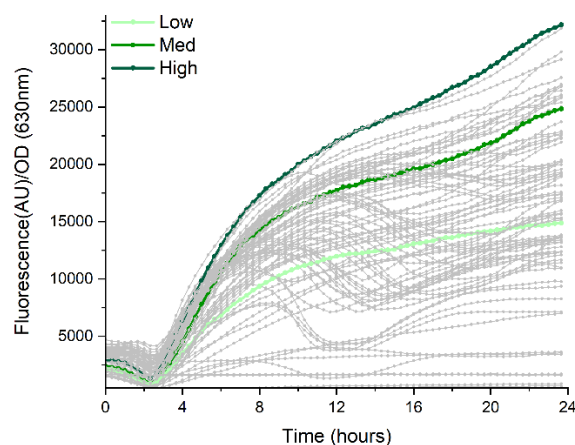
tetA^{pBR322-ROP} was evaluated by measuring the fluorescence over time with different rhamnose concentrations and without antibiotic in the media. The RK2 version was included as a positive (stable) control. The fluorescence was relative to the wildtype MG1655(DE3) to ensure reproducibility between data collected on different days. Representative plates of *rfp* fragment recombineering into pUC^{TUNE} using **j**) no rhamnose and **k**) 100mM of rhamnose, and **l**) Evaluation of copy number tunability by measuring RFP fluorescence with different rhamnose concentrations from one of the clones isolated from the *rfp* pUC^{TUNE} recombineering.



Supplementary Figure 11: Recombineering between the triple selection cloning cassette fragment and linearized plasmids. Representative plates showing recombineering with the plasmid a) RK2, b) p15A and c) pBR322-ROP. d) The assembly efficiency in CFU was low on the low copy plasmid but increased for medium and high copy plasmids. F) Assembly accuracy was higher than 90% in all cases.



Supplementary Figure 12: Multiple fragment incorporation. **a)** To evaluate the cloning system with multiple fragment incorporation, we split *rfp* into two pieces with 100bp of homology between them. **b)** CFU observed for the different copy numbers. **c)** Recombination efficiency observed for the different copy numbers. Representative plates for **d)** RK2, **e)** p15A and **f)** pBR322-ROP.



Supplementary Figure 13: TIR library evaluation at the pBR322-ROP PT7^{CONS} histidine cluster plasmid. A TIR library was generated and the resulting variants were evaluated in liquid culture based on fluorescence. The green lines show the selected variants for low, medium and high expression.

tetA optimized TIR sequences

- Low copy number plasmid

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*ATGTGTGGAGGGCCCAAGTTCACTTAAAAAGGAGA****GCGACGATGAAATCT****TAACAATGCGCTCATC*
GTCATCCTCGGCACCGTCACCCTGGATGCTGTAGGCATAGGCTTGGTTATGCCGGTACTGCCGGGC
CTCTTGCGGGATATCGTCCATTCCGACAGCATCGCCAGTCACTATGGCGTGCTGCTAGCGCTATAT
GCGTTGATGCAATTTCTATGCGCACCCGTTCTCGGAGCACTGTCCGACCGCTTTGGCCGCCGCCCA
GTCCTGCTCGCTTCGCTACTTGGAGCCACTATCGACTACGCGATCATGGCGACCACACCCGTCCTG
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TATATGCCCGACATCACCGATGGGGAAGATCGGGCTCGCCACTTCGGGCTCATGAGCGCTTGTTTC
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GATGCCCCGCTTGCAGGCCATGCTGTCCAGGCAGGTAGATGACGACCATCAGGGACAGCTTCAAG
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CCGCCTCGGCGAGCACATGGAACGGGTGGCATGGATTGTAGGCGCCGCCCTATACCTTGTCTGCC
*TCCCCGCGTTGCGTCGCGGTGCATGGAGCCGGGCCACCTCGACCTGAGACAATTGT**Cagataaaaaaaaa*
tccttagctttcgctaaggatgatttct

Italic lower case: terminators

Underlined: P3 promoter

Bold: Start codon

Red: Translation initiation region

- Medium copy number plasmid

ccaattattgaaggccgctaacgcggcctttttgtttctggtctcccAAAAATTTATTTGCTTATTAATCATCCGGCTCGTATA
ATGTGTGGAGGGCCCAAGTTCACTTAAAAAGGAGA
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ATAGGCTTGGTTATGCCGGTACTGCCGGGCCTCTTGCGGGATATCGTCCATTCCGACAGCATCGCC
AGTCACTATGGCGTGCTGCTAGCGCTATATGCGTTGATGCAATTTCTATGCGCACCCGTTCTCGGA
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CTACTGGGCTGCTTCCTAATGCAGGAGTCGCATAAGGGAGAGCGCCGTCCGATGCCCTTGAGAGC
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TTGTAGGCGCCGCCCTATACCTTGTCTGCCTCCCCGCGTTGCGTCGCGGTGCATGGAGCCGGGCCA
*CCTCGACCTGAGACAATTGT**Cagataaaaaaaaaatccttagctttcgctaaggatgatttct*

Italic lower case: terminators

Underlined: P3 promoter

Bold: Start codon

Red: Translation initiation region

- High copy number plasmid

*ccaattattgaaggccgctaacgcggcctttttgtttctggtctccc*AAAAATTTATTTGCTTATTAATCATCCGGCTCGTATA
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CCTCGACCTGAGACAATTGTC*cagataaaaaaatccttagctttegtaaggatgatttct*

Italic lower case: terminators

Underlined: P3 promoter

Bold: Start codon

Red: Translation initiation region

BCD-*gfp* sequence

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AAGATCCCAACGAAAAGCGTGACCACATGGTCCTTCTTGAGTTTGTAAGTCTGCTGGGATTACAC
ATGGCATGGATGAGCTCTACAAATGA

Bold lower case: BCD sequence

Upper case: *gfp* sequence

crtEBIY sequence

ATGACGGTCTGCGCAAAAAACACGTTTCATCTCACTCGCGATGCTGCGGAGCAGTTACTGGCTGAT
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CCTGAAGATTTAATTGCCCGTTTTTATGCGGGAAACTCACGCTGACCGATCGGCTACGTATTCTG
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nanobody sequence

ATGGCTCAGGTCCAACCTGGTTCGAATCAGGCGGCGCTCTGGTCCAACCGGGCGGCTCTCTGCGTCTG
TCGTGTGCTGCTTCAGGCTTCCCGGTTAACCGTTATAGCATGCGTTGGTACCGTCAGGCACCGGGT
AAAGAACGTGAATGGGTGCGGGCATGAGCTCTGCCGGTGATCGTAGTTCCTATGAAGACTCAGT
GAAGGGTCGCTTTACCATTTCGCGTGATGACGCACGCAACACGGTGTACCTGCAATGAATAGTCT
GAAACCGGAAGATACCGCTGTTTATTACTGTAATGTTAATGTCGGTTTTGAATACTGGGGTCAGGG
CACGCAGGTCACGGTTAGCAGCAAGCTTGCGGGCCATCATCATCACCACCACCACCTGA

rfp sequence

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GGCGCCTACAACGTCAACATCAAGTTGGACATCACCTCCCACAACGAGGACTACACCATCGTGGA
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galK sequence

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CCCTGCGCGATTGATTATCAAACCGTGATCAGTTGTGCACCACGCGATGACCGTAAAGTTCGCGTG
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GCGCTTAACGGTCAGGAAGCAGAAAACAGTTTGTAGGCTGTAAGTGCGGGATCATGGATCAGCT

AATTTCCGCGCTCGGCAAGAAAGATCATGCCTTGCTGATCGATTGCCGCTCACTGGGGACCAAAGC
 AGTTTCCATGCCCAAAGGTGTGGCTGTCGTCATCATCAACAGTAACTTCAAACGTACCCTGGTTGG
 CAGCGAATACAACACCCCGTCGTGAACAGTGCAGAAACCGGTGCGCGTTTCTTCCAGCAGCCAGCCC
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 GCGTGCGTCATATACTGACTGAAAACGCCCGCACCGTTGAAGCTGCCAGCGCGCTGGAGCAAGGC
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 ACGCATGACCGGCGGCGGATTTGGCGGCTGTATCGTCGCGCTGATCCCGGAAGAGCTGGTGCCTG
 CCGTACAGCAAGCTGTCGCTGAACAATATGAAGCAAAAACAGGTATTAAAGAGACTCTTTACGTT
 TGTAACCATCACAAGGAGCAGGACAGTGTCTGA

pUC^{TUNE} sequence

GGCCGGCCccgtagaaaagatcaaaggatcttctgaCACCACAATTGAGCAAAATTGTGAACATCATCAGC
 TTCATCTTTCCCTGGTTGCCAATGGCCCATTTTCCTGTCAGTAACGAGAAGGTCGCGAATT
 CAGGCGCTTTTGTAGACTGGTGCAAACAAAAAACACCGCTACCAGCGGTGGTTTGT
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 CCTTTTGCTCACATGTTCTTTCCTGCGTTATCCCCTGATTCTGTGGATAACCGTATT
 ACCGCCTTTGAGTGAGCTGATACCGCTCGCCGCAGCCGAACGACCGAGCGCAGCGA
 GTCAGTGAGCGAGGAAGCGGAAGAGCGCCCAATACGCAAACCGCCTCTCCCCGCG
 CGTTGGCCGATTCATTAATGCAGCTGGCACGACAGGTTTCCCGACTGGAAAGCGGG
 CAGTGAGCGCAACGCaattaatgtgagtagctcactcattaggcaGGCGCGCC

Blue: FseI restriction enzyme site

Pink: Rhamnose promoter

Black bold: pUC origin of replication

Green: AscI restriction enzyme site

Histidine cluster-optimized TIR sequences

- Low expression level

ttgtttaactttaagaaggagaCCCGTTATGGGTAGCAGCCATCATCATCATCACAGCAGCGGCCTGGTGC
 CGCGCGGCAGCCATATGGCTAGCATGACTGGTGGACAGCAAATGGGTTCGC

Lower case: RBS

Bold: Start codon

Red: Translation initiation region - low

Blue: 6x Histidine

Green: Thrombin protease recognition site (TPS)

Orange: T7-Tag

- Medium expression level

ttgtttaactttaagaaggaga**ATCCGGA****TGGGTAGC**AGCCATCATCATCATCATCACAGCAGCGGC**CTGGTGC**
CGCGCGGCAGCCATATGGCTAGCATGACTGGTGGACAGCAAATGGGTCGC

Lower case: RBS

Bold: Start codon

Red: Translation initiation region – high

Blue: 6x Histidine

Green: Thrombin protease recognition site (TPS)

Orange: T7-Tag

- High expression level

ttgtttaactttaagaaggaga**GCTGTA****ATGGGAAGC**AGCCATCATCATCATCATCACAGCAGCGGC**CTGGTGC**
CGCGCGGCAGCCATATGGCTAGCATGACTGGTGGACAGCAAATGGGTCGC

Lower case: RBS

Bold: Start codon

Red: Translation initiation region – high

Blue: 6x Histidine

Green: Thrombin protease recognition site (TPS)

Orange: T7-Tag

Triple terminator (T2) sequence

TCGACCTAGCAT**AAACCCGCGGGGCCTCTTCGGGGGTCTCGCGGGGTTTTTTGCT**GAAAGAAGCTT
CAAATAAAACGAAAGGCTCAGTCGAAAGACTGGGCCTTTCGTTTTATCTGTTGTTTGTCGCCAAAG
CCCGAAAGGAAGCTGAGTTGGCTGCTGCCACCGCTGAGCAATAA**CTAGCATAACCCCTTGGGGCC**
TCTAAACGGGTCTTGAGGGGTTTTTTGCTGAAAGGAGGAAGTATATCCGGAT

Blue: TUUGG terminator

Green: rrnB T1 terminator

Orange: T7 terminator

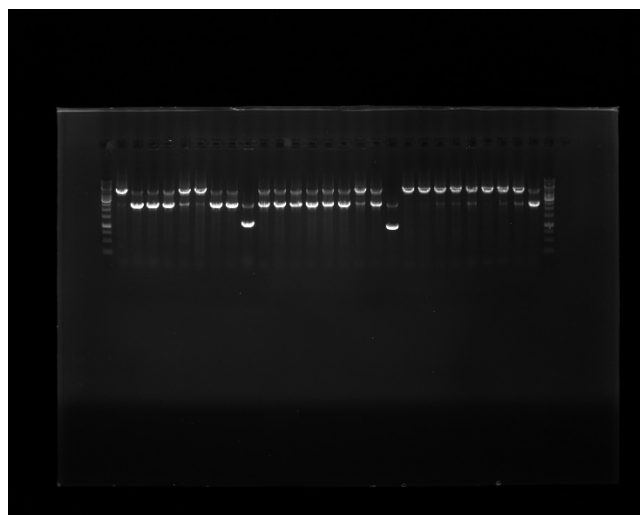
Supplementary Table 1 - Oligonucleotides used in this study

Number	Sequence	Description
01	GGCCCAGTCTTTCGACTGAGCCTTTCGTTTTATTTGATGCCTTT AATTAAGCGTTGCGCTTGACG	SEGA landing pad with J23100 promoter on SEVA 121 fwd
02	TGGAGTTCTGAGGTCATTACTGGATCTATCAACAGGAGTCCAA GACTAGTGACAATTGTCTCAGGTCGAGG	SEGA landing pad on SEVA 121 rev

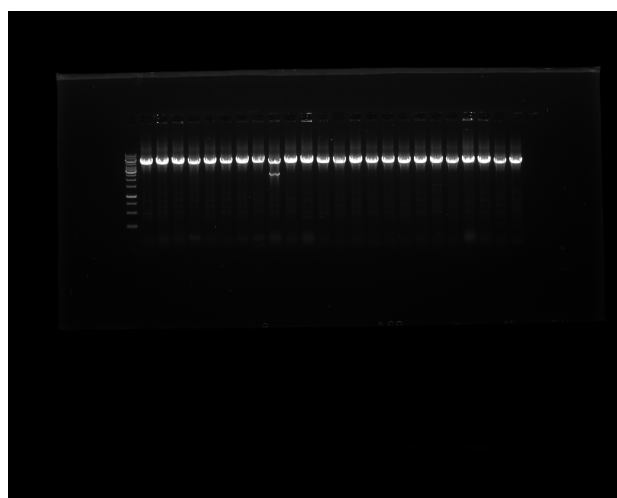
34	ATCTTTCCUGGTTGCCAATGGCCATTTTCCTGTCAGTAACG AGAAGGTCGCGAATTCAGGCGCTTTTACTGCTGCAACA AAAAAACAC	Amplification of Rhamn- pUC_fwd
35	AGGGAAAGAUGAACGTGATGATGTTTACAATTTGCTGAATTG TGGTGTCAAGAAGATCCTTTGATCTTTTCTACGGGGCCGCCT AC	Amplification of Rhamn- pUC_rev
36	ATTAAGCGUTGCGCTCACTGCC	Amplification of lac promoters fwd
37	ATTAAGCGUTGCGCTTAATCTTTCTGC	Amplification of PrhaBAD promoter fwd
38	AGTTCTTCUCCTTTGCTCATTAGAAAACCTC	Different promoter insertion from SEGA rev
39	ATGATGATGAUGATGGCTGCTGCCCATGGTATATCTCCTTCTT AAAGTTAAACAAAATTATTTCTAGAGGGGAATTGTTATCCGCT CACAATTC	Amplification of the histidine tag cluster fwd
40	ATCATCATCAUCACAGCAGCGGCCTGGTGCCGCGCGGCAGCC ATATGGCTAGCATGACTGGTGGACAGCAAATGGGTCGCATGA GCAAAGGAGAAGAACTTTTC	Amplification of the histidine tag cluster rev
41	GAAGAACUTTTCACTGGAGTTGTGCC	Plasmid backbone amplification for histidine cluster fwd
42	ACGCTTAAUTAAAGGCATCAAATAAAACGAAAGG	Plasmid backbone amplification for histidine cluster rev
43	AATACGACUACTATAGGGAGAGGAATTGTGAGCGGATAAC	T7CONS sequence restoration - fwd
44	AGTCGTATUAATTTTCGCGGGATCG	T7CONS sequence restoration - rev
45	GCCATCTGATCGTTGGCAACCAGC	Screening for the histidine cluster
46	AATTTATGCUGCTAACAAAGCCCGAAA	pET28 backbone amplification - fwd
47	ATTTGCTGUCCACCAGTCATGCTAG	pET28 backbone amplification - rev
48	ACAGCAAAUGGGTCGCATGAGCAAAGGAGAAGAAC	Insertion of GFP on pET28 - fwd
49	AGCATAAATUTTTGGGAGACCAGAAACAA	Insertion of GFP on pET28- rev
50	TGGCAGCAGCCAACTCAGCTTC	Screening for GFP in pET28 - fwd
51	GGGAATTGTGAGCGGATAAC	Screening for GFP in pET28 - rev
52	ATCATCATCAUCATCACAGCAGCGG	TIR library of the histidine cluster - fwd
53	ATGATGATGAUGGCTRCTNCCCATNNNNNTCTCCTTCTTAA GTAAACAAAATT	TIR library of the histidine cluster - rev
54	ATCTGTTGUTTGTCGCCAAAGCCCGAAAGGAAGCTGAGTTGG CTGCTGCCACCGCTGAGCAATAACTAGCATAACCCCTTGGGGC CTCTAAACGGGTCTTGAGGGGTTTTTGTCTGAAAGGAGGA ATATCCGGATAAAAATTTATTTGCTTATTAATCATCC	T2 on plasmid - fwd
55	ACAACAGAUAAAACGAAAGGCCAGTCTTTCGACTGAGCCTT TCGTTTTATTTGAAGCTTCTTTCAGCAAAAAACCCCGCGAGAC CCCCGAAGAGGCCCGCGGGGTTATGCTAGGTCGATCATTTGT AGAGCTCATCC	T2 on plasmid -rev
56	GGTGATGTCGGCGATATAGG	Screening for T2 insert - rev
57	GTACAGGAACGCACTATATCTTTC	Screening for T2 insert - rev
58	ATTTTCGTACUGAAACATCTTAATCATGCTAAGGAG	BCD binding -fwd
59	AGTACGAAAAUNGCTTCATNNNNNTTTCTCCTCTTAAATCT CTAGTAGC	BCD TIR library- rev
60	ATTTTCGTACTGAAACATCTTAATCATGCTAAGGAGGTTTTCT AATGAGTCTGAAAGAAAAAACACAATCTC	<i>galK</i> Integration <i>cat</i> restoration - fwd
61	ATGCCGTTTGTGATGGCTTCCATGTCGGCAGAATGCTTAATGA ATTACAACAGTACTGCGATGAGTGGCAGGGCGGGGCGTAATT	<i>galK</i> Integration <i>cat</i> restoration - rev

CCTGACTTAAGCGGCGCTGGTTATCCATCGGAGCCATCCGTAT
TGTGTTCAAGCACTGTCCTGCTC

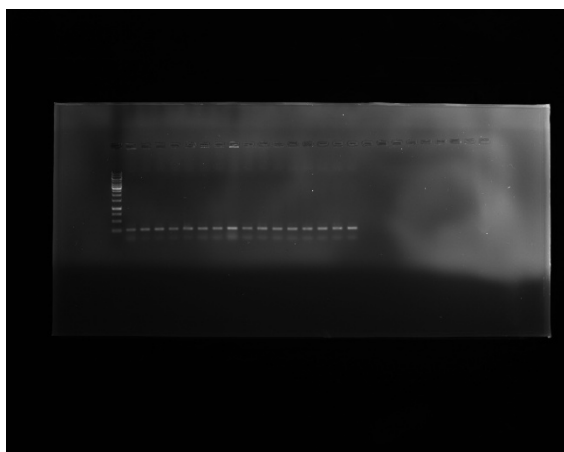
Uncropped gel images:



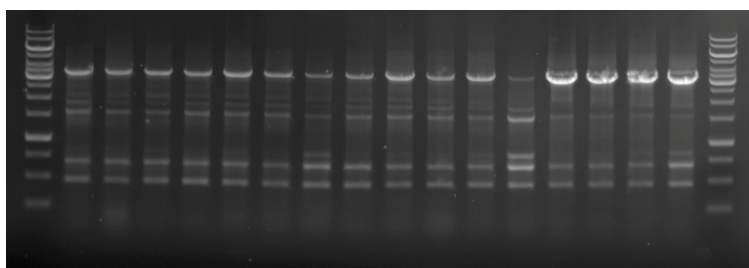
Uncropped gel Figure 2m



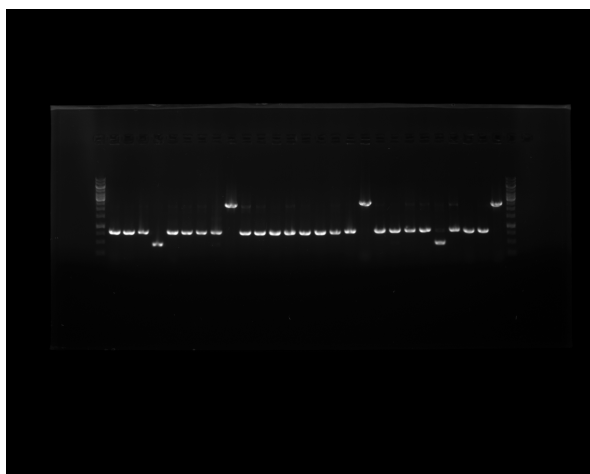
Uncropped gel Figure 2n



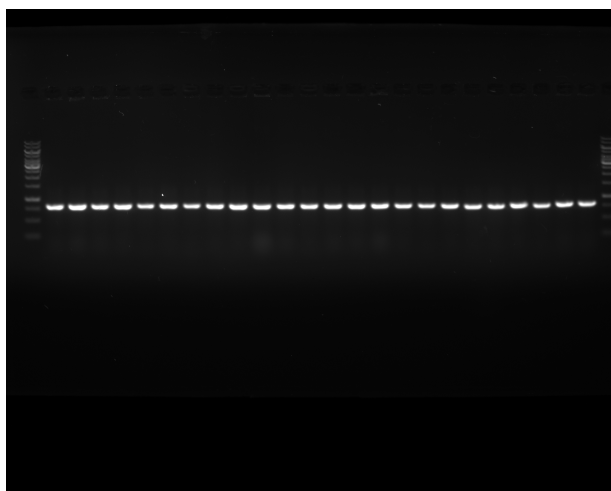
Uncropped gel Supplementary Figure 3c



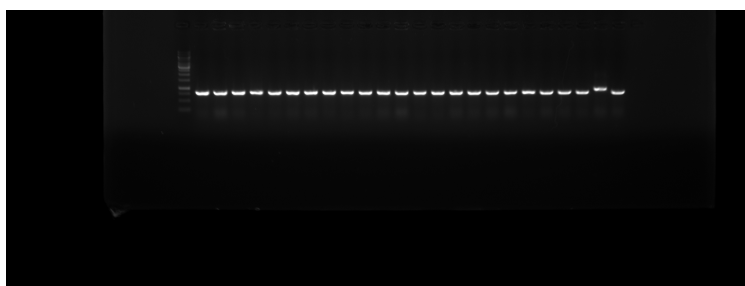
Uncropped gel Supplementary Figure 4



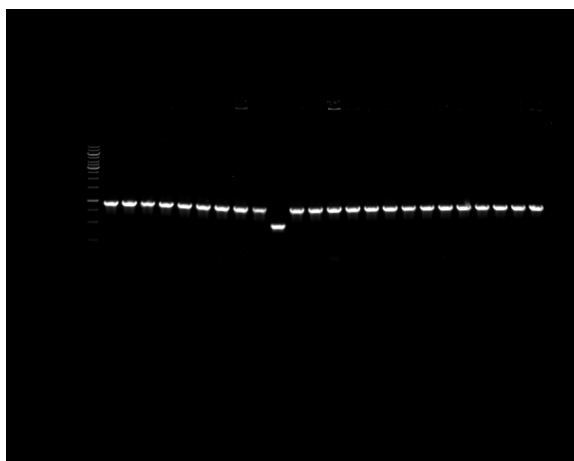
Uncropped gel Supplementary Figure 6a



Uncropped gel Supplementary Figure 9a



Uncropped gel Supplementary Figure 9b



Uncropped gel Supplementary Figure 9c