AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Title as follows:

METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR EXPRESSION CASSETTES COMPRISING A MAIZE GENE-DERIVED INTRON ~~WITH SUBSTITUTED ELEMENTS~~ FOR ENHANCED EXPRESSION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 25 as follows:

The ViennaRNA package version 1.8.2 is used to calculate the free energy for each input sequence. (Hofacker et al. Monatshefte f. Chemie 125: 167-188 (1994); ~~www.~~tbi.univie.ac.at/RNA/). The parameter settings for calculation were "-p0-d2," which turns on calculation of the partition function and ensures that the partition function and the minimum free energy treat dangling end energies in the same manner. Calculation of the energies was executed on the in-house Linux cluster. In this manner, the free energy value and free energy per base pair were determined for each intron. The free energy score refers to the delta-G reported by the tool. The following reference is provided for background on how free energies are calculated: Expanded Sequence Dependence of Thermodynamic Parameters Improves Prediction of RNA Secondary Structure
J. Mol. Biol. 288, 911-940 (1999).