

The L-rhamnose-dependent regulator RhaS and its target promoters from *Escherichia coli* expand the genetic toolkit for regulatable gene expression in the acetic acid bacterium *Gluconobacter oxydans*

Philipp Moritz Fricke, Mandy Lynn Gries, Maurice Mürköster, Marvin Höninger, Jochem Gätgens, Michael Bott, and Tino Polen*

Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, IBG-1: Biotechnology, Institute of Bio- and Geosciences
52425 Jülich, Germany

* for correspondence: Dr. Tino Polen t.polen@fz-juelich.de
Phone +49 2461 61 6205

Supplementary Data

Table S1 DNA oligonucleotides used in this study

Table S2 GC-TOF MS results of L-rhamnose biotransformation assays with *G. oxydans*

Figure S1 Scheme of the RhaSR system from *Escherichia coli*

Figure S2 GC-TOF MS results of L-rhamnose biotransformation assays with *G. oxydans*

Figure S3 Growth of *G. oxydans* 621H in shake flasks without and with 1% (w/v) L-rhamnose

Figure S4 P_{rhaSR} -derived mNG expression

Figure S5 Tunable repression of genomic single-copy $P_{rhaBAD(+RhaS-BS)}$

Figure S6 Sequence alignment of σ^{70} from *G. oxydans* 621H and *E. coli* K12

Figure S7 Reads mapping overview for pBBR1MCS-5-*rhaS*- P_{rhaSR} - $P_{rhaBAD(+RhaS-BS)}$ -mNG

Figure S8 Reads mapping of the P_{rhaSR} - $P_{rhaBAD(+RhaS-BS)}$ promoter region

Table S1 DNA oligonucleotides used in this study

Name	DNA sequence 5' > 3'
PF1	GGGGCGCGCCCTGCAGGTCTAGATTAATCTTTCTGCGAATTGAGATGACG
PF2	ATTGTCCTCTTCACCTTTAGACACCATATGATATCTCCTTGAAATGTGATCCTGCTGA ATTTCAATAC
PF3	CCAAGGAGATATCATATGGTGTCTAAAGGT
PF4	GAGACTTCAGTCTAATGCTGACAAGCTTGATATCGAATTCGCGAAAAAACCCGCCG AAG
PF5	AATTGGGGCGCGCCCTGCAGGTCTACCTCGGCCAGAGAACGAAG
PF6	ATGACCGTATTCTTTCTGCAATAACGCGAATCTTCTCAACGTATTTG
PF7	AAGATTCGCGTTATTGCAGAAAGAATACGGTCATACTGGCCTCCTGATG
PF8	AATTGGGGCGCGCCCTGCAGGTCTAGAACTGGCCTCCTGATGTGCTCAAC
PF9	TCCAAGGAGATATCATATGACCGTATTACATAGTGTGGATTTTTTTCCG
PF10	TGTAATACGGTCATATGATATCTCCTTGATTTCGGTCTCCCTCGCC
PF11	TCCTGAAAATTCACGCTGTAGTTGCGCCTGAATGAGAGG
PF12	CAGGCGCAACTACAGCGTGAATTTTCAGGAAATGCGGTG
PF13	TAATACGGTCATATGATATCTCCTTGATAGTGACATTCCAGCTTGGGGC
PF14	CCTGAAAATTCACGCTGTGGCTTCGTGGTGAACGC
PF15	CACCACGAAGCCACAGCGTGAATTTTCAGGAAATGCGGTG
PF16	CCCCGCAATTGGGGCGCGCCCTGCAGGTCTAGAGCGAAAAAACCCGCCG
PF17	TCAGGCGCAACGAACGTGATGATGTTTACAATTTGCTGAATTG
PF18	TTGTGAACATCATCACGTTTCGTTGCGCCTGAATGAGAGG
PF19	TAATGCTGACAAGCTTGATATCGAATTCTTATTGCAGAAAGCCATCCCG
PF20	GTTACACCAAGCCGAACGTGATGATGTTTACAATTTGCT
PF21	TTGTGAACATCATCACGTTTCGCTTCGTGGTGAACGC
PF22	CATCAGGAGGCCAGTTCCAAGGAGATATCATATGGTGTCTAAAGGTG
PF23	TGATATCTCCTTGGAAGTGGCCTCCTGATGTCG
PF24	GCTGACAAGCTTGATATCGAATTCAATGTGATCCTGCTGAATTTCAATAC
PF25	TCCTGTGAGTAACGAGAAGGTCGCGAATTCAGGCGCTTTTCTAGACTATCTTTCCCTGG TTGCCAATGGCCATTTTCCTGTGAGTAACGAGAAGGTGGTTCGTAATGAAATTCAGCA GG
PF26	GGCCCCGCAATTGGGGCGCGCCCTGCAGGTCTAGAGATTGTTAATGCCGCGTAAGC AG
PF27	TTGTCCTCTTCACCTTTAGACACCATATGATATCTCCTTGACTTCTTATCCTCATCAT TTTTCGTCGCG
PF28	CCAAGGAGATATCATATGGTGTCTAAAGGT
PF29	GCGGCATTAACAATCGAACGTGATGATGTTTACAATTTGCTGAATTG
PF30	ATTGTGAACATCATCACGTTTCGATTGTTAATGCCGCGTAAGCAGTTG
PF31	CAGCTATGACATGATTACGAATTCGAGCTCGGTACCATCTGGCCGCC
PF32	GGAGATGCCATCAGGCATCTCCCTTTTTTCGTTCCGGCGCACTAATCCGAAAAGAG CGGTTGTAG
PF33	TCACGACGTTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGCCATTACGACATGGAACCGGGC
PF34	CGCTCGGGAACGCGCCTCGATCGATCAGACCTGTGTGTTTCATG
PF35	AAGGGGAGATGCCTGATGGCATCTCCCTTTTTTCATGGCCCCGACTGGCCTCCTGAT GTCG
PF36	CACAGGTCTGATCGATCGAGGCGCGTTCCCGAG
PF37	TCATTCAGGCGCAACGATTGTTAATGCCGCGTAAG
PF38	GCGGCATTAACAATCGGCTTCGTGGTGAACGC
PF39	GTTACACCAAGCCGATTGTTAATGCCGCGTAAGC
PF40	TGACATGATTACGAATTCGAGCTCGGTACGAATTCGAGCTCGGTACTCTC
PF41	TCCTCTCATTACAGGCGCAACAGACAGATAAAAAAGCCGGTCC
PF42	TCCCTTTTTTTCGTTCCGGCGAACCAGACTTCAGTCTGCC
PF43	ACGACGGCCAGTGCCAAGCTCACGTCATCATGAAAGTGCATCAC
PF44	GCAGACTGAAGTCTCGGTTCCGGGAACGAAAAAAGG
PF45	CCGGCTTTTTTTATCTGTCTGTTGCGCCTGAATGAGAGGAAAG
PF46	TTGTGAACATCATCACGTTCCAGACAGATAAAAAAGCCGGTC
PF47	CGGCTTTTTTTATCTGTCTGGAACGTGATGATGTTTACAATTTGCT
MH3	TCCTCTCATTACAGGCGCAACCCTCGTGAAGTGAAGACCGGGCAGG
MH5	ACAGGGCAGGAGCGAGATATGCCGGAACGAAAAAAGG

MH6	TCCCCTTTTTTCGTTCCGGCATATCTCGCTCCTGCCCTGTG
MH7	TGTGAACATCATCACGTTCCCCTCGTGAAGTCAAAGACCGGGCAGG
MH8	GGTCTTTCAGTTCACGAGGGGAACGTGATGATGTTTCACAATTTGCT
MH9	ACGACGTTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGCCATTACGCTTATGCGTTTCGCGCC
MH10	TACGAATTCGAGCTCGGTACAACCTGACCAGCTCAACACTGGG
MM13	CCAATGGCCCATTTCCTGTGTCAGTAACGAGAAGGTATCTCGTCGGAGATGTGACGC GACG
MM14	ACAGGAAAAATGGGCCATTGGCAACCAGGGAAAGATAGTGTA AAAATCGTGCTGTCTGA TTAACCTTTTCGC
MM15	CCAATGGCCCATTTCCTGTGTCAGTAACGAGAAGGTGAGATGTGACGCGACGAAAAAT GATGAGGATAAG
MM16	ACAGGAAAAATGGGCCATTGGCAACCAGGGAAAGATCGACGAGATGAGTGTA AAAATC GTGCTGTCTGATTAAAC

Table S2 GC-TOF-MS results of L-rhamnose biotransformation assays with *G. oxydans* 621H and control samples. Cell suspensions with an OD₆₀₀ of 1.3 were incubated for 24 h at 30°C and 200 rpm in biotransformation buffer supplemented with 2% (w/v) L-rhamnose. As controls, shake flasks either with L-rhamnose without cells, or with cells but without L-rhamnose were used. For GC-TOF-MS analysis cell-free supernatant was prepared. The peaks at GC retention time R_t 12.69 min, 13.35 min, and 13.65 min corresponded to L-rhamnose. The peak areas indicated that L-rhamnose was hardly consumed or converted by strain 621H within 24 h. Furthermore, in the GC-TOF-MS no new peak could be found which could potentially represent an oxidation product of L-rhamnose.

R _t (min)	Area				
	0% L-Rham., with cells, t=0	0% L-Rham., with cells, t=24	2% L-Rham., without cells, t=0	2% L-Rham., with cells, t=0	2% L-Rham., with cells, t=24
12.69	9.22E+05	3.48E+05	8.02E+08	6.44E+08	8.23E+08
13.35	-	-	2.94E+08	1.93E+08	3.15E+08
13.55	3.24E+06	1.21E+06	9.49E+08	1.17E+09	9.96E+08
13.65	-	-	5.29E+08	3.65E+08	6.37E+08
Sum:	4.16E+06	1.56E+06	2.57E+09	2.37E+09	2.77E+09

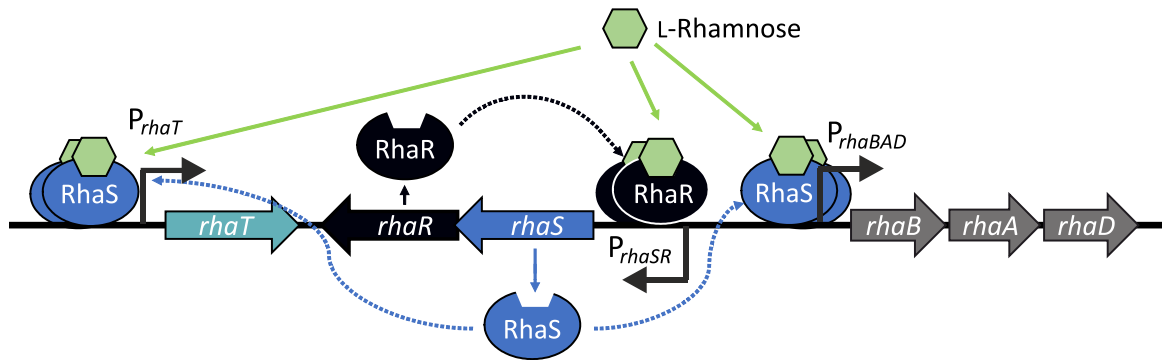


Figure S1 Scheme of the RhaSR system from *Escherichia coli* and positive regulation of the target promoters P_{rhaBAD} and P_{rhaT} by RhaS, and of P_{rhaSR} by RhaR in the presence of L-rhamnose in *E. coli* (modified from Egan and Schleif, 1993; Via et al., 1996).

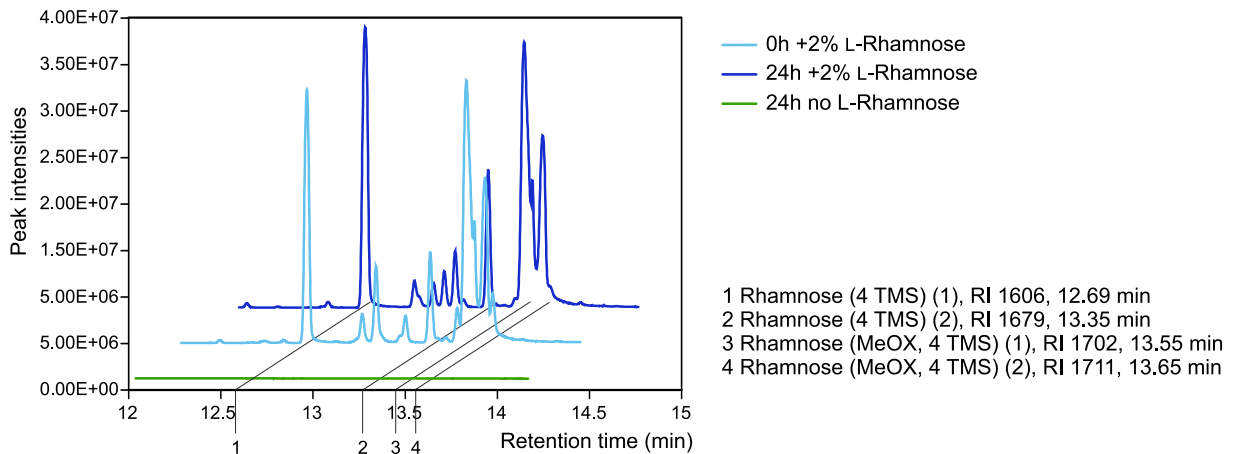


Figure S2 Stacked chromatograms of GC-TOF-MS analysis to check L-rhamnose oxidation by *G. oxydans* 621H in biotransformation assays. Cell suspensions with an OD_{600} of 1.3 were incubated for 24 h at 30°C and 200 rpm in biotransformation buffer supplemented with 2% (w/v) L-rhamnose. Then, cell-free culture supernatant was prepared for GC-TOF-MS analysis.

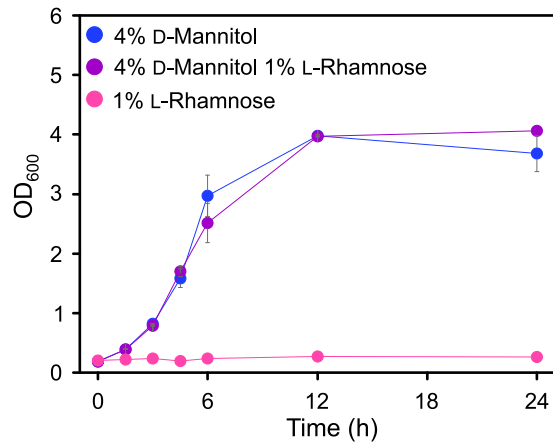


Figure S3 Growth of *G. oxydans* 621H in shake flasks in complex medium with 4% (w/v) D-mannitol supplemented with 1% (w/v) L-rhamnose or not, and in complex medium containing 1% (w/v) L-rhamnose instead of 4% (w/v) D-mannitol. For each condition the data represent two biological replicates.

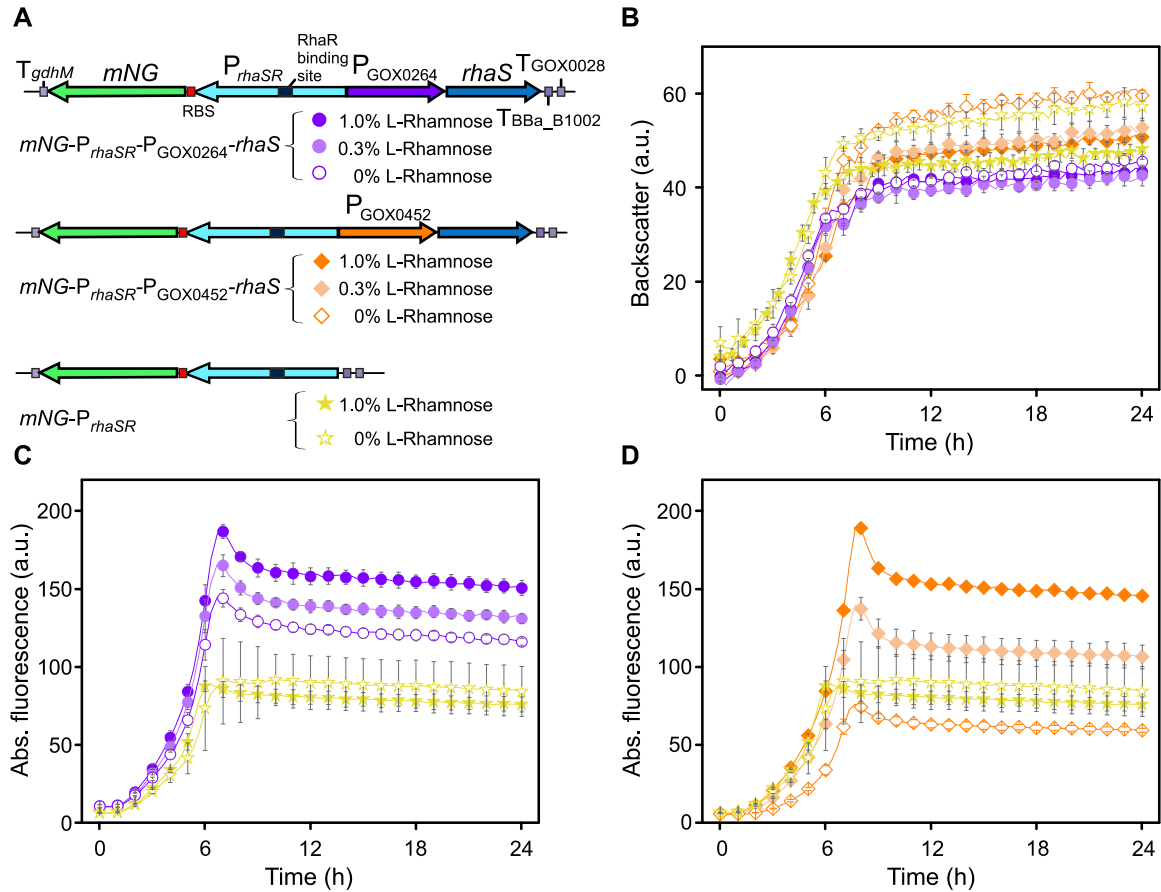


Figure S4 P_{rhaSR} -derived mNG expression in dependence of $rhaS$ expression strength and presence of L-rhamnose.

(A) Schematic illustration of pBBR1MCS-5-derived plasmid variants with insert mNG - P_{rhaSR} - $P_{GOX0264}$ - $rhaS$, mNG - P_{rhaSR} - $P_{GOX0452}$ - $rhaS$, or mNG - P_{rhaSR} . **(B)** Growth according to backscatter of *G. oxydans* 621H carrying plasmid pBBR1MCS-5- mNG - P_{rhaSR} - $P_{GOX0264}$ - $rhaS$, pBBR1MCS-5- mNG - P_{rhaSR} - $P_{GOX0452}$ - $rhaS$, or pBBR1MCS-5- mNG - P_{rhaSR} in microscale BioLector cultivations. Absolute fluorescence of *G. oxydans* 621H with **(C)** plasmid pBBR1MCS-5- mNG - P_{rhaSR} - $P_{GOX0264}$ - $rhaS$ and with **(D)** pBBR1MCS-5- mNG - P_{rhaSR} - $P_{GOX0452}$ - $rhaS$, both graphs with the same data from *G. oxydans* 621H carrying pBBR1MCS-5- mNG - P_{rhaSR} lacking $rhaS$. L-Rhamnose was supplemented with 0.3% or 1% (w/v). Data represent mean values and standard deviation from two biological replicates with two and three technical replicates each. BioLector settings: backscatter gain 20, fluorescence gain 70.

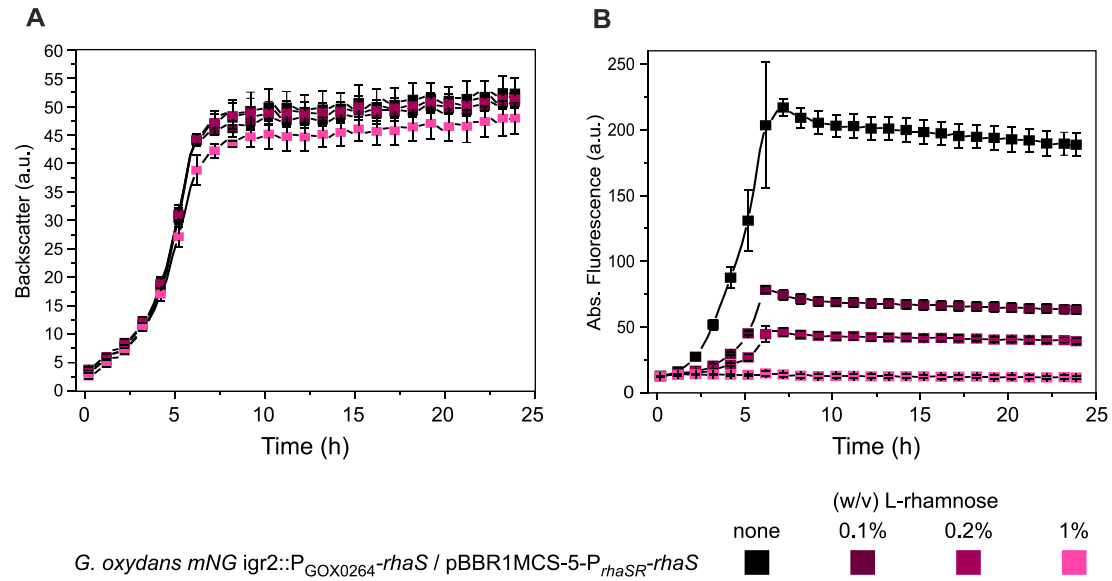


Figure S5 Tunable repression of genomic single-copy P_{rhaBAD(+RhaS-BS)} by lower L-rhamnose concentrations and plasmid-based multi-copy *rhaS* expression.

(A) Backscatter and **(B)** absolute mNG fluorescence of *G. oxydans* strain mNG igr2::P_{GOX0264}-*rhaS* with plasmid pBBR1MCS-5-P_{rhaSR}-*rhaS* in microscale BioLector cultivations. The strain was cultivated in complex medium with 4% (w/v) D-mannitol. L-Rhamnose was supplemented as indicated. Data represent mean values and standard deviation from two biological replicates (clones) with three technical replicates each. BioLector settings: backscatter gain 20, fluorescence gain 70.

<i>G.o.</i> 621H	28	AAVKRLIAKGRERGHITFDELNAVLPQDQMSSEQIEDVMAALSEMGIQVIENEDQDEAEA	87
		+ +K L+ +G+E+G++T+ E+N LP+D + S+QIED++ +++MGIQV+E +	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	7	SQKLKLVTRGKEQGGLTYAEVNDHLPEDIVDSDQIEDIIQMINDMGIQVMEEAPDADDLM	66
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	88	PAEKEAEGDGEAAEGPQGGNVDAEAAASRTDDPVRMYLREMGVELLSREGEIAIAKRIEA	147
		AE A+ D EA +V++E RT DPVRMY+REMG+VELL+REGEI IAKRIE	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	67	LAENTADEDAAEAAAQVLSSVESEIG-RTTDPVRMYMREMGTVELLTREGEIDIAKRIED	125
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	148	GRDEMIGGLCESPLTIRAIISWHERLKDGEMLLRDIVDLEASQGGGPDPEAVEGEEGDEA	207
		G +++ + E P I ++ ++R++ E L D++ G DP A	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	126	GINQVQCSVAEYPEAITYLEQYDRVEAEEARLSDLI-----TGFVDPNA-----	170
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	208	SEEDDTAEDENEEGEDQQEGSGLSLSALEEKLKPEILARFEAIEP-----LYHKLR-KL	261
		E+D A G QE EE + +I+P + +LR +	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	171	--EEDLAPTATHVGSELSQEDLDDEDEDEEDGDDDSADDDNSIDPELAREKFAELRAQY	228
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	262	QIKRIEALTGGEDHSDKSEQTYEKLRLHELVSLEQVHLHNNRIEELVAQIKMQVQKLNNV	321
		+ R G H+ E+ + L + +Q L + + LV +++ + ++	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	229	VVTRDTIKAKGRSHATAQEEILK-----LSEVFKQFRLVPKQFDYLVNSMRVMMDRVRTQ	283
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	322	EGRMMRLA-ESCKISRDDFLIKYRSRELDPTWLDSISALPGKGWKNLTTKHMDQLRNLRG	380
		E +M+L E CK+ + +F+ + E TW ++ A+ K W +++	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	284	ERLIMKLCVEQCKMPKKNFITLEFTGNETSDTWFNAAIAM-NKPWSEKLHDVSEEVHRALQ	342
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	381	EIAALSHETGLPVGEFRRVYATISRGERDSTRAKKEMIEANLRLVISIAKKYTNRGLQFL	440
		++ + ETGL + + + + +S GE + RAKKEM+EANLRLVISIAKKYTNRGLQFL	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	343	KLQQIEEETGLTIEQVKDINRRMSIGEAKARRAKKEMVEANLRLVISIAKKYTNRGLQFL	402
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	441	DLIQEGNIGLMKAVDKFEYRRGYKFSTYATWWIRQAITRSIADQAKTIRIPVHMIETINK	500
		DLIQEGNIGLMKAVDKFEYRRGYKFSTYATWWIRQAITRSIADQA+TIRIPVHMIETINK	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	403	DLIQEGNIGLMKAVDKFEYRRGYKFSTYATWWIRQAITRSIADQARTIRIPVHMIETINK	462
		-10	
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	501	LVRTSRQMLHEIGREPAPEELAEKLGMPLEKVRKVLKIAKEPISLETPIGDEEDSHLGDF	560
		L R SRQML E+GREP PEELAE++ MP +K+RKVLKIAKEPIS+ETPIGD+EDSHLGDF	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	463	LNRIQRQMLQEMGREPTPEELAEERMLMPEDKIRKVLKIAKEPISMETPIGDEEDSHLGDF	522
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	561	IEDKTAVIPLDAAIQTNLREATTRVLASLTPREERVLRMRFGIGMNTDHTLEEVGQQFNV	620
		IED T +PLD+A +LR AT VLA LT RE +VLRMRFGI MNTD+TLEEVG+QF+V	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	523	IEDTTLELPLDSATTESLRAATHDVLAGLTAREAKVLRMRFGIDMNTDYTLEEVGKQFDV	582
<i>G.o.</i> 621H	621	TRERIRQIEAKALRKLKHPSRSRKLRSFLDD	651
		TRERIRQIEAKALRKL+HPSRS LRSFLDD	
<i>E.c.</i> K12	583	TRERIRQIEAKALRKLKHPSRSEVLRSFLDD	613
		-35	
		K593 R599	

Figure S6 Sequence alignment of σ^{70} from *G. oxydans* 621H and *E. coli* K12.

Regions containing amino acid residues suggested to be involved in -10 and -35 promoter element recognition are marked in blue (Kelly et al., 2018). Amino acid residues K593 and R599 interacting with RhaS in *E. coli* are highlighted in red (Bhende and Egan, 2000; Wickström and Egan, 2004).

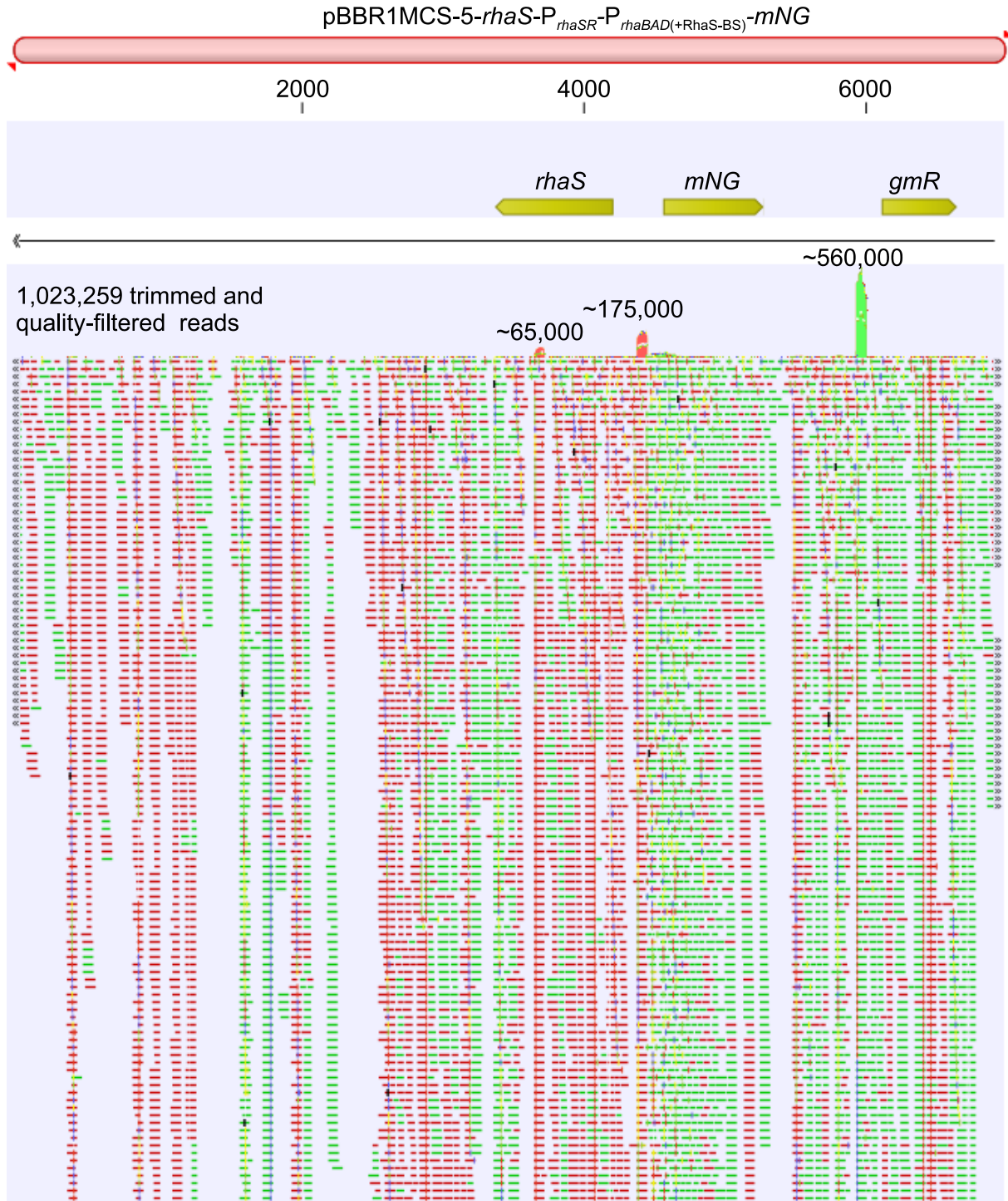


Figure S7 Reads mapping overview for pBBR1MCS-5-*rhaS*-P_{*rhaSR*}-P_{*rhaBAD*}(+RhaS-BS)-*mNG*.

Illustration of the overall read mapping shows the three highest reads stacks indicating the three most abundant transcriptional starts on the plasmid. Green color indicates single reads mapping to the plus strand (forward). Red color indicates single reads mapping to the minus strand (reverse). The by far highest stack (~560,000 coverage) corresponded to the annotated promoter region of *gmR* conferring gentamycin resistance and was oriented forward toward *gmR*. The second-highest stack (~175,000 coverage) was oriented reverse and thus toward *rhaS* on the minus strand and the start position of the stack was upstream from P_{*rhaSR*} within the P_{*rhaBAD*} region between the -35 and -10 regions from *E. coli*. The third-highest stack (~65,000 coverage) was oriented reverse within the coding region of *rhaS*.



Figure S8 Reads mapping of the P_{*rhaSR*}-P_{*rhaBAD*(+RhaS-BS)} promoter region.

Illustration of the reads mapping shows the potential TSS toward *rhaS* on the minus strand with the start position of the stack upstream from P_{*rhaSR*} within the P_{*rhaBAD*} region between the -35 and -10 regions from *E. coli*. For the P_{*rhaBAD*(+RhaS-BS)} region and the 5' region of *mNG* several reads stacks with scattering start positions were found suggesting a multitude of TSSs oriented toward the 3' end of *mNG*. Green color indicates single reads mapping to the plus strand (forward). Red color indicates single reads mapping to the minus strand (reverse).

References

- Bhende, P.M., and Egan, S.M. (2000). Genetic evidence that transcription activation by RhaS involves specific amino acid contacts with sigma 70. *J Bacteriol* 182, 4959-4969.
- Egan, S.M., and Schleif, R.F. (1993). A regulatory cascade in the induction of *rhaBAD*. *J Mol Biol* 234, 87-98.
- Kelly, C.L., Taylor, G.M., Hitchcock, A., Torres-Mendez, A., and Heap, J.T. (2018). A rhamnose-inducible system for precise and temporal control of gene expression in *Cyanobacteria*. *ACS Synth Biol* 7, 1056-1066.
- Via, P., Badia, J., Baldoma, L., Obradors, N., and Aguilar, J. (1996). Transcriptional regulation of the *Escherichia coli rhaT* gene. *Microbiology* 142 (Pt 7), 1833-1840.
- Wickstrum, J.R., and Egan, S.M. (2004). Amino acid contacts between sigma 70 domain 4 and the transcription activators RhaS and RhaR. *J Bacteriol* 186, 6277-6285.