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

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Amendment No. 7  
to  
**FORM S-1**  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

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**NewLink Genetics Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Delaware</b><br>(State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation or<br>organization) | <b>541700</b><br>(Primary Standard Industrial<br>Classification Code Number) | <b>42-1491350</b><br>(I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification Number) |
|---|--|---|

**2503 South Loop Drive  
Ames, IA 50010  
(515) 296-5555**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including  
area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

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**CHARLES J. LINK, JR.**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NewLink Genetics Corporation  
2503 South Loop Drive  
Ames, IA 50010  
(515) 296-5555

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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*Copies to:*

**James C.T. Linfield  
Brent D. Fassett  
Cooley LLP  
380 Interlocken Crescent  
Broomfield, CO 80021  
(720) 566-4000**

**Geoffrey E. Liebmann  
Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP  
Eighty Pine Street  
New York, NY 10005  
(212) 701-3000**

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**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:**  
As soon as practicable after the effective date of this registration statement.

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If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. (Check one):

Large Accelerated Filer

Accelerated Filer

Non-accelerated Filer

Smaller Reporting Company

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities<br>to be Registered | Proposed Maximum<br>Aggregate Offering<br>Price(1) | Amount of<br>Registration Fee(2) |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share              | \$86,250,000                                       | \$6,150.00(3)                    |

- (1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.
- (2) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) based on an estimate of the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.
- (3) Previously paid.

The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

**PART II**  
**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS**

**Item 13. Other expenses of issuance and distribution.**

The following table sets forth all costs and expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, paid or payable by us in connection with the sale of the common stock being registered. All amounts shown are estimates except for the Securities Exchange Commission, or SEC, registration fee, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, filing fee and the listing fee for the NASDAQ Global Market.

|  | <b>Amount Paid or<br/>to be Paid</b> |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| SEC registration fee                           | \$ 6,150                             |
| FINRA filing fee                               | 9,125                                |
| The NASDAQ Global Market listing fee           | 125,000                              |
| Blue sky qualification fees and expenses       | 5,000                                |
| Printing expenses                              | 375,000                              |
| Legal fees and expenses                        | 1,500,000                            |
| Accounting fees and expenses                   | 825,000                              |
| Transfer agent and registrar fees and expenses | 5,000                                |
| Miscellaneous expenses                         | 24,725                               |
| Total  | <u>\$ 2,875,000</u>                  |

**Item 14. Indemnification of directors and officers.**

We are incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any persons who are, or are threatened to be made, parties to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person was an officer, director, employee or agent of such corporation, or is or was serving at the request of such person as an officer, director, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was illegal. A Delaware corporation may indemnify any persons who are, or are threatened to be made, a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation by reason of the fact that such person was a director, officer, employee or agent of such corporation, or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests except that no indemnification is permitted without judicial approval if the officer or director is adjudged to be liable to the corporation. Where an officer or director is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action referred to above, the corporation must indemnify him or her against the expenses which such officer or director has actually and reasonably incurred. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, each of which will

become effective upon the completion of this offering, provide for the indemnification of our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duties as a director, except for liability for any:

- transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit;
- act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- unlawful payment of dividends or redemption of shares; or
- breach of a director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws include such a provision. Expenses incurred by any officer or director in defending any such action, suit or proceeding in advance of its final disposition shall be paid by us upon delivery to us of an undertaking, by or on behalf of such director or officer, to repay all amounts so advanced if it shall ultimately be determined that such director or officer is not entitled to be indemnified by us.

Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides, among other things, that a director who willfully or negligently approves of an unlawful payment of dividends or an unlawful stock purchase or redemption may be held liable for such actions. A director who was either absent when the unlawful actions were approved, or dissented at the time, may avoid liability by causing his or her dissent to such actions to be entered in the books containing minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors at the time such action occurred or immediately after such absent director receives notice of the unlawful acts.

As permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, we have entered into indemnity agreements with each of our directors and executive officers, that require us to indemnify such persons against any and all expenses (including attorneys' fees), witness fees, damages, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts incurred (including expenses of a derivative action) in connection with any action, suit or proceeding, whether actual or threatened, to which any such person may be made a party by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, an officer or an employee of NewLink or any of its affiliated enterprises, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to our best interests and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The indemnification agreements also set forth certain procedures that will apply in the event of a claim for indemnification thereunder.

At present, there is no pending litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors or executive officers as to which indemnification is required or permitted, and we are not aware of any threatened litigation or proceeding that may result in a claim for indemnification.

We have an insurance policy covering our officers and directors with respect to certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, or otherwise.

We have entered into an underwriting agreement which provides that the underwriters are obligated, under some circumstances, to indemnify our directors, officers and controlling persons against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Reference is made to the following documents filed as exhibits to this registration statement regarding relevant indemnification provisions described above and elsewhere herein:

| <u>Exhibit Document</u>  | <u>Number</u> |
|--|---------------|
| Form of Underwriting Agreement   | 1.1           |
| Form of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to be effective upon completion of this offering | 3.2           |
| Form of Amended and Restated Bylaws to be effective upon completion of this offering                       | 3.4           |
| Form of Indemnity Agreement  | 10.50         |

**Item 15. Recent sales of unregistered securities.**

The following list sets forth information regarding all securities sold by us in the three years preceding the filing of this Registration Statement:

- (1) Between February 8, 2008 and December 17, 2009, in connection with our Series C preferred stock financing, we issued and sold an aggregate of 6,000,000 shares of Series C preferred stock to 142 accredited investors at 33 closings, at a purchase price of \$5.00 per share, for aggregate consideration of \$30.0 million. Upon completion of this offering, these shares will convert into 2,879,162 shares of common stock.
- (2) On July 17, 2009, in connection with our Series D preferred stock financing, we issued and sold an aggregate of 1,500,000 shares of Series D preferred stock to one accredited investor at one closing, at a purchase price of \$5.00 per share, for aggregate consideration of \$7.5 million. Upon completion of this offering, these shares will convert into 719,791 shares of common stock.
- (3) Between December 1, 2010 and December 13, 2010, in connection with our Series E preferred stock financing, we issued and sold an aggregate of 248,320 shares of Series E preferred stock to 39 accredited investors at two closings, at a purchase price of \$31.25 per share, for aggregate consideration of \$7.8 million. Upon completion of this offering, these shares will convert into 829,947 shares of common stock.
- (4) On July 17, 2009, we issued a warrant to Midwest Oilseeds, Inc. to purchase an aggregate of 178,571 shares of our common stock, with an initial exercise price of \$15.12 per share. On October 7, 2010, this warrant was amended and on October 21, 2010 the warrant was exercised for 178,571 shares of common stock at an aggregate exercise price of \$2.0 million.
- (5) From October 30, 2000 to August 6, 2008, we granted stock options under our 2000 Equity Incentive Plan to purchase 808,168 shares of common stock (net of expirations and cancellations) to our employees, directors and consultants, having exercise prices ranging from \$0.53 to \$7.14 per share. Of these, options to purchase 226,229 shares of common stock have been exercised through December 31, 2010, for aggregate consideration of \$141,543, at exercise prices ranging from \$0.53 to \$3.68 per share. In addition, we granted stock awards for 18,470 shares of our common stock in exchange for services rendered.
- (6) From May 13, 2009 to December 9, 2010, we granted stock options under our 2009 Equity Incentive Plan to purchase 2,477,738 shares of common stock (net of expirations and cancellations) to our employees, directors and consultants, having exercise prices ranging from \$2.10 to \$7.16 per share. Of these, none of the options to purchase shares of common stock have been exercised through December 31, 2010.
- (7) From May 13, 2009 to December 4, 2009, we granted stock options under our 2009 Equity Incentive Plan to purchase 1,161,083 shares of common stock (net of expirations and cancellations) to Dr. Charles Link, having exercise prices ranging from \$2.10 to \$4.20 per share.

Of these, none of the options to purchase shares of common stock have been exercised through December 31, 2010.

- (8) On September 3, 2010, we issued 23,810 shares of our common stock to Reconstitute, LLC, pursuant to the terms of a Termination Agreement by which we terminated a license agreement with Reconstitute. The stock was issued in consideration of Reconstitute's performance of certain provisions of the license agreement prior to termination and Reconstitute's agreement to terminate the license agreement.
- (9) On July 29, 2010, we issued 173,469 shares of our common stock to nine accredited investors pursuant to the July 21, 2005 purchase agreement with the shareholders of OncoRx Corporation. This issuance was the third and final installment of shares payable under the July 21, 2005 purchase agreement.
- (10) On January 7, 2011, and August 12, 2011, we issued 276,304 shares of our Series E preferred in connection with the acquisition of BioProtection Systems Corporation.
- (11) On June 20, 2011, we issued and sold to an investor an additional 160,000 shares of Series E preferred stock at a purchase price of \$31.25 per share, which resulted in gross proceeds of \$5.0 million.
- (12) On August 31, 2011, we issued 20,864 shares of our common stock as dividends on shares of our Series AA preferred stock.

The offers, sales and issuances of the securities described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (7), (8), (9) and (10) were deemed to be exempt from registration under the Securities Act in reliance on Rule 506 of Regulation D in that the issuance of securities to the accredited investors did not involve a public offering. The recipients of securities in each of these transactions acquired the securities for investment only and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution thereof and appropriate legends were affixed to the securities issued in these transactions. Each of the recipients of securities in these transactions was an accredited investor under Rule 501 of Regulation D.

The offers, sales and issuances of the securities described in paragraphs (5) and (6) were deemed to be exempt from registration under the Securities Act in reliance on Rule 701 in that the transactions were under compensatory benefit plans and contracts relating to compensation as provided under Rule 701. The recipients of such securities were our employees, directors or bona fide consultants and received the securities under our 2000 Equity Incentive Plan or 2009 Equity Incentive Plan. Appropriate legends were affixed to the securities issued in these transactions. Each of the recipients of securities in these transactions had adequate access, through employment, business or other relationships, to information about us.

#### **Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

#### **EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <u>Exhibit<br/>Number</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1.1(6)                    | Form of Underwriting Agreement   |
| 3.1(1)                    | Restated Certificate of Incorporation filed on November 23, 2010   |
| 3.2(6)                    | Form of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to be effective upon completion of this offering |
| 3.3(1)                    | Bylaws, as currently in effect   |
| 3.4(6)                    | Form of Amended and Restated Bylaws to be effective upon completion of this offering                       |

| Exhibit<br>Number | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| 3.5(4)            | Certificate of Amendment to Restated Certificate of Incorporation filed on September 15, 2011                      |
| 3.6(5)            | Certificate of Amendment to Restated Certificate of Incorporation filed on October 25, 2011                        |
| 4.1(5)            | Form of the Registrant's Common Stock Certificate  |
| 4.2(1)            | Reference is made to Exhibits 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6  |
| (4)               |  |
| 5.1               | Opinion of Cooley LLP  |
| 10.1(6)           | Form of Lock-up Agreement  |
| 10.2†(1)          | 2000 Equity Incentive Plan   |
| 10.3†(1)          | Form of Stock Option Agreement under 2000 Equity Incentive Plan  |
| 10.4†(1)          | Form of Stock Option Grant Notice under 2000 Equity Incentive Plan   |
| 10.5†(1)          | Form of Stock Bonus Agreement under 2000 Equity Incentive Plan   |
| 10.6†(1)          | Amended and Restated 2009 Equity Incentive Plan  |
| 10.7†(1)          | Form of Stock Option Agreement under 2009 Equity Incentive Plan  |
| 10.8†(1)          | Form of Stock Option Grant Notice under 2009 Equity Incentive Plan   |
| 10.9†(1)          | 2010 Employee Stock Purchase Plan  |
| 10.10†(6)         | 2010 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Award Plan  |
| 10.11†(6)         | Form of Indemnity Agreement by and between the Registrant and its directors and executive officers                 |
| 10.12†(1)         | Employment Agreement, dated as of December 6, 2010, by and between the Registrant and Charles J. Link, Jr.         |
| 10.13†(1)         | Employment Agreement, dated as of November 22, 2010, by and between the Registrant and Nicholas N. Vahanian        |
| 10.14†(1)         | Employment Agreement, dated as of June 26, 2008, by and between the Registrant and Gordon H. Link, Jr.             |
| 10.15†(1)         | Employment Agreement, dated as of November 22, 2010, by and between the Registrant and Gordon H. Link, Jr.         |
| 10.16†(1)         | Employment Agreement, dated as of November 22, 2010, by and between the Registrant and Kenneth Lynn                |
| 10.17†(1)         | Employment Agreement, dated as of November 22, 2010, by and between the Registrant and W. Jay Ramsey               |
| 10.18†(1)         | Form of Employee Proprietary Information and Inventions Agreement  |
| 10.19†(2)         | Promissory Note dated May 2, 2008 by and between the Registrant and Charles Link                                   |
| 10.20†(2)         | Promissory Note dated April 18, 2000 by and between the Registrant and Nicholas Vahanian                           |
| 10.21†(2)         | Promissory Note dated August 20, 2008 by and between the Registrant and Nicholas Vahanian                          |
| 10.22†(2)         | Promissory Note dated July 2008 by and between the Registrant and Gordon Link                                      |
| 10.23†(2)         | Amendment Agreement dated July 1, 2010 by and between the Registrant and Charles Link                              |
| 10.24†(2)         | Amendment Agreement dated July 1, 2010 by and between the Registrant and Nicholas Vahanian                         |
| 10.25†(2)         | Acknowledgment Agreement dated November 24, 2010 by and between the Registrant and Charles Link                    |
| 10.26†(2)         | Acknowledgment Agreement dated November 24, 2010 by and between the Registrant and Nicholas Vahanian               |
| 10.27†(2)         | Acknowledgment Agreement dated November 24, 2010 by and between the Registrant and Gordon Link                     |
| 10.28†(2)         | Acknowledgment Agreement dated November 24, 2010 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and Charles Link |

| <u>Exhibit<br/>Number</u> | <u>Description</u>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 10.29†(2)                 | Acknowledgment Agreement dated November 23, 2010 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and Nicholas Vahanian   |
| 10.30*(6)                 | License Agreement dated July 7, 2005 by and between the Registrant and Lankenau Institute for Medical Research  |
| 10.31*(6)                 | First Amendment to License Agreement dated May 22, 2006 by and between the Registrant and Lankenau Institute for Medical Research                               |
| 10.32*(6)                 | Second Amendment to License Agreement September 11, 2007 by and between the Registrant and Lankenau Institute for Medical Research                              |
| 10.33*(6)                 | Exclusive License Agreement executed December 21, 2007 by and between the Registrant and Lankenau Institute for Medical Research                                |
| 10.34*(6)                 | Exclusive License Agreement effective April 23, 2009 by and between the Registrant and Lankenau Institute for Medical Research                                  |
| 10.35*(6)                 | License Agreement dated February 27, 2007 by and between the Registrant and University of British Columbia  |
| 10.36*(6)                 | License Agreement dated October 13, 2004 by and between the Registrant and Drexel University  |
| 10.37*(6)                 | License Agreement dated August 2, 2001 by and between the Registrant and Central Iowa Health System   |
| 10.38*(6)                 | Letter of Intent for Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA #2166) dated May 7, 2007 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute |
| 10.39(4)                  | Amendment No. 1 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated January 17, 2008 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                          |
| 10.40(4)                  | Amendment No. 2 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated July 7, 2008 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                              |
| 10.41(4)                  | Amendment No. 3 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated March 24, 2009 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                            |
| 10.42(4)                  | Amendment No. 4 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated October 28, 2009 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                          |
| 10.43(4)                  | Amendment No. 5 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated December 16, 2009 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                         |
| 10.44(4)                  | Amendment No. 6 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated June 29, 2010 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                             |
| 10.45(4)                  | Amendment No. 7 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated November 26, 2010 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                         |
| 10.46*(6)                 | License Agreement dated September 13, 2005 by and between the Registrant and Medical College of Georgia Research Institute, Inc.                                |
| 10.47*(6)                 | First Amendment to License Agreement dated April 27, 2006 by and between the Registrant and Medical College of Georgia Research Institute, Inc.                 |
| 10.48*(6)                 | Second Amendment to License Agreement dated April 27, 2006 by and between the Registrant and Medical College of Georgia Research Institute, Inc.                |
| 10.49*(6)                 | Third Amendment to License Agreement dated February 13, 2007 by and between the Registrant and Medical College of Georgia Research Institute, Inc.              |
| 10.50*(6)                 | Patent License Agreement dated March 1, 2006 by and between the Registrant and Bresagen Xenograft Marketing Ltd.  |
| 10.51(1)                  | Lease dated September 1, 2000 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation   |
| 10.52(1)                  | Sublease Agreement effective February 1, 2001 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State Innovation System  |
| 10.53(1)                  | Memorandum of Agreement dated December 6, 2005 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation                                |

| <u>Exhibit Number</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10.54(1)              | Memorandum of Agreement dated April 13, 2006 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation   |
| 10.55(1)              | Memorandum of Agreement dated February 20, 2008 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation  |
| 10.56(1)              | Memorandum of Agreement dated May 1, 2009 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation  |
| 10.57(1)              | Memorandum of Agreement dated March 24, 2010 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation   |
| 10.58(1)              | Lease dated September 30, 2009 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation   |
| 10.59(1)              | Promissory Note executed in 2009 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation   |
| 10.60(1)              | Forgivable Loan Agreement dated March 10, 2010 by and between the Registrant and City of Ames, Iowa  |
| 10.61(1)              | Iowa Values Fund Agreement dated March 18, 2005 by and between the Registrant and Iowa Department of Economic Development  |
| 10.62(1)              | Contract Amendment dated August 19, 2010 between the Registrant and Iowa Department of Economic Development  |
| 10.63(1)              | Master Contract dated December 29, 2005 by and between the Registrant and Iowa Department of Economic Development  |
| 10.64(1)              | Contract Amendment dated April 21, 2009 between the Registrant and Iowa Department of Economic Development   |
| 10.65(1)              | Contract Amendment dated August 19, 2010 between the Registrant and Iowa Department of Economic Development  |
| 10.66*(6)             | Exclusive License Agreement dated July 29, 2008 by and between the Regents of the University of California and BioProtection Systems Corporation                                   |
| 10.67*(6)             | Sole License Agreement executed May 4, 2010 by and between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and BioProtection Systems Corporation  |
| 10.68(2)              | Contract No. W911NF-08-C-0044 dated May 5, 2008 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the United States Department of Defense                                       |
| 10.69(2)              | Amendment to Contract No. W911NF-08-C-0044 dated February 12, 2009 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the United States Department of Defense                    |
| 10.70*(6)             | Contract No. HDTRA1-09-C-0014 dated September 25, 2009 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the United States Department of Defense                                |
| 10.71(2)              | Contract No. W911NF-09-C-0072 dated July 31, 2009 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the United States Department of Defense                                     |
| 10.72(2)              | Amendment to Contract No. W911NF-09-C-0072 dated April 21, 2010 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the United States Department of Defense                       |
| 10.73(2)              | Grant Number 5U01AI066327-05 issued August 26, 2009 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the National Institutes of Health   |
| 10.74(2)              | Grant Number 1R43AI084350-01A1 issued April 6, 2010 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the National Institutes of Health   |
| 10.75(2)              | Agreement and Plan of Merger dated December 1, 2010 by and between the Registrant, BPS Merger Sub, Inc., BioProtection Systems Corporation and BPS Stockholder Representative, LLC |
| 10.76(2)              | Certificate of Merger of BPS Merger Sub, Inc. into BioProtection Systems Corporation filed on January 7, 2011  |
| 10.77(3)              | Contract Amendment effective February 17, 2011 between the Registrant and Iowa Department of Economic Development  |

| Exhibit<br>Number | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| 10.78(3)          | Contract Amendment effective February 17, 2011 between the Registrant and Iowa Department of Economic Development  |
| 10.79(4)          | Amendment No. 8 to Letter of Intent for CRADA #2166 dated June 2, 2011 by and between the Registrant and National Cancer Institute                               |
| 10.80(4)          | Amendment of Contract No. HDTRA1-09-C-0014 dated September 20, 2011 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the United States Department of Defense |
| 10.81(4)          | Grant Number 5R43AI084350-02 issued March 24, 2011 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and the National Institutes of Health                        |
| 10.82(5)          | Lease dated August 10, 2005 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation                                 |
| 10.83(5)          | Memorandum of Agreement dated September 29, 2011 by and between BioProtection Systems Corporation and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation            |
| 10.84(5)          | Memorandum of Agreement dated September 29, 2011 by and between the Registrant and Iowa State University Research Park Corporation                               |
| 21.1(1)           | Subsidiary Information   |
| 23.1(5)           | Consent of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm   |
| 23.2(2)           | Consent of the Mentor Group, Inc., valuation specialist  |
| 23.3              | Consent of Cooley LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)  |
| 24.1(1)           | Power of Attorney  |
| 24.2(3)           | Power of Attorney  |
| 24.3(6)           | Power of Attorney  |

- 
- (1) Filed with the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 on December 21, 2010
  - (2) Filed with the Registrant's Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 on February 28, 2011
  - (3) Filed with the Registrant's Amendment No. 3 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 on September 14, 2011
  - (4) Filed with the Registrant's Amendment No. 4 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 on October 4, 2011
  - (5) Filed with the Registrant's Amendment No. 5 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 on October 26, 2011
  - (6) Filed with the Registrant's Amendment No. 6 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 on November 8, 2011

† Indicates management contract or compensatory plan

\* Indicates confidential treatment has been requested with respect to specific portions of this exhibit. Omitted portions have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 24b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

**(b) Financial statement schedule.**

No financial statement schedules are provided because the information called for is not required or is shown either in the financial statements or notes.

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to provide to the underwriter at the closing specified in the underwriting agreement certificates in such denominations and registered in such names as required by the underwriter to permit prompt delivery to each purchaser.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that:

- (1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this Registration Statement as of the time it was declared effective.
- (2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant has duly caused this Amendment No. 7 to the Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Ames, State of Iowa, on November 10, 2011.

NEWLINK GENETICS CORPORATION

By: /s/ CHARLES J. LINK, JR.

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Charles J. Link, Jr.  
*Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Amendment No. 7 to the Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| <u>Signature</u>  | <u>Title</u>  | <u>Date</u>       |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <u>/s/ CHARLES J. LINK, JR.</u><br>Charles J. Link, Jr. | Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board<br>and Director ( <i>Principal Executive Officer</i> ) | November 10, 2011 |
| <u>/s/ GORDON H. LINK, JR.</u><br>Gordon H. Link, Jr.   | Chief Financial Officer and Secretary ( <i>Principal<br/>Financial and Accounting Officer</i> )       | November 10, 2011 |
| <u>*</u><br>Thomas A. Raffin                            | Director  | November 10, 2011 |
| <u>*</u><br>Ernest J. Talarico, III                     | Director  | November 10, 2011 |
| <u>*</u><br>David J. Lundquist                          | Director  | November 10, 2011 |
| <u>*</u><br>Sarah Alexander                             | Director  | November 10, 2011 |
| <u>*</u><br>Joseph Saluri                               | Director  | November 10, 2011 |
| <u>*</u><br>Paul R. Edick                               | Director  | November 10, 2011 |

\*By: /s/ GORDON H. LINK, JR.

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Gordon H. Link, Jr.,  
*Attorney-in-Fact*

## QuickLinks

### PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

[Item 13. Other expenses of issuance and distribution.](#)

[Item 14. Indemnification of directors and officers.](#)

[Item 15. Recent sales of unregistered securities.](#)

[Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules](#)

### EXHIBIT INDEX

[Item 17. Undertakings.](#)

### SIGNATURES



## QuickLinks

[Exhibit 5.1](#)