Claims:

1. A recombinant gram-negative bacterial cell according to any preceding claim comprising:

    a. a knockout mutated Tsp gene comprising a mutation to the gene start codon and/or one or more stop codons positioned downstream of the gene start codon and upstream of the gene stop codon; and

    b. optionally a mutated DegP gene encoding a DegP protein having chaperone activity and 50% or less protease activity of the protease activity of a wild-type non-mutated DegP protein;

wherein the cell is isogenic to *E. coli* cell W3110 except for the one or more mutated protease genes and optionally a polynucleotide sequence encoding a protein of interest.

2. A recombinant gram-negative bacterial cell according to claim 1 further comprising a knockout mutated ptr gene comprising a mutation to the gene start codon and/or one or more stop codons positioned downstream of the gene start codon and upstream of the gene stop codon.

3. A cell according to claim 1, wherein the cell is strain MXE001 (Accession Number NCTC13444).

4. A cell according to any of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cell comprises a mutated DegP gene encoding a DegP protein having chaperone activity but not protease activity and a knockout mutated Tsp gene.

5. A cell according to claim 4, wherein the cell is strain MXE005 (Accession Number NCTC13448).

6. A cell according to any of claim 1 or 2, wherein the cell comprises a knockout mutated ptr gene and a knockout mutated Tsp gene.

7. A cell according to claim 6, wherein the cell is strain MXE004 (Accession Number NCTC13447).

8. A cell according to any preceding claim, wherein the mutated DegP gene, the mutated ptr gene and/or the mutated Tsp gene are mutated to comprise one or more restriction marker sites.

9. A cell according to claim 8, wherein the knockout mutated ptr gene and/or the knockout mutated Tsp gene are mutated to comprise a restriction marker site comprising an in-frame stop codon.

10. A cell according to claim 8, wherein the restriction marker site is an *Ase I* restriction site.

11. A cell according to any of claims 8 to 10, wherein the knockout mutated ptr gene and/or the knockout mutated Tsp gene comprise a restriction marker site created by a missense mutation to the gene start codon and optionally one or more further point mutations.

12. A cell according to claim 11, wherein the restriction marker site is an *EcoR I* marker site.

13. A cell according to any of claims 2, 4, 6 or 7 to 12, wherein the knockout mutated ptr gene comprises SEQ ID NO:6.

14. A cell according to any of claims 1 to 12, wherein the knockout mutated Tsp gene comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

15. A cell according to any of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, or 10, wherein the mutated DegP gene comprises the mutation S210A.

16. A cell according to claim 15, wherein the mutated DegP gene comprises SEQ ID NO:9.

17. A cell according to any preceding claim, wherein the cell further comprises a polynucleotide sequence encoding a protein of interest.

18. A cell according to claim 17, wherein the polynucleotide sequence encoding the protein of interest is exogenous.

19. A cell according to claim 18, wherein the cell comprises an expression cassette or a vector comprising the polynucleotide sequence encoding the protein of interest.

20. A cell according to any of claims 17 to 19, wherein the protein of interest is an antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof.

21. A cell according to claim 20, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof is specific for TNF.

22. A method for producing a recombinant protein of interest comprising expressing the recombinant protein of interest in a recombinant gram-negative bacterial cell as defined in any of claims 1 to 21.