

For Immediate Release

Panacea Biotec pre-qualified by WHO for supply of Pentavalent Vaccine, EasyFive* to UN agencies

Panacea Biotec has received WHO prequalification for its fully liquid innovative combination Pentavalent vaccine, EasyFive* against five deadly infectious diseases (DTwP+ Hep B+ Hib) of early childhood. This feat comes close on heels of Panacea Biotec's pre-qualification by WHO for two other combination vaccines, EasyFour (DTP + Hib) and Ecovac (DTP + Hep B) in January this year. In a notification, WHO has advised the UN procuring agencies regarding the acceptability of these vaccines world-wide. Panacea Biotec is already a pre-qualified supplier of OPV and Hepatitis-B vaccines to UN agencies.

This makes Panacea Biotec as the first Indian company & one of three companies in the world to have been pre-qualified by WHO for a pentavalent vaccine. Pentavalent vaccines are used by UN agencies (Unicef, Paho etc.) to vaccinate & save precious lives of millions of children in the developing World.

Panacea Biotec has been playing an important role in immunization through its novel and innovative, world's first fully liquid vaccine with brands such as, 'Easy Four' & 'Easy Five', for over 3 years. It has partnered with WHO & UNICEF with a mission of supporting the cause of maximizing coverage of vaccines under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) for more than a decade.

Developing countries would need a combination vaccine to the tune of around 300 Mio doses annually. The combined demand of all combination pediatric vaccines worldwide was valued at USD 600 million in 2005 and is estimated to grow up to USD 1.6 billion by 2012. Pentavalent vaccine market is estimated to cross a mark of \$1 Billion out of which UN agencies are likely to procure this vaccine worth more than Rupees 1,500 crore (>\$ 350Mio), by 2009 itself. The WHO prequalification for Easy Five makes Panacea Biotec a strong contender in this important market segment.

“India is responding to globalization faster than people think. Encouraging innovation from India to develop vaccines for the developing countries is good for the world and will help to reduce the overall costs of healthcare, a cause close to our heart”, said Mr. Rajesh Jain speaking on the occasion.

Panacea Biotec inaugurated its ultra modern, Greenfield construction, vaccine production plant at Baddi, H.P., with over Rs.100 Crore (approx. USD 25 million) investment in Sept'07, having capacity of more than 1 billion doses per annum, to cater to domestic and global markets. With this latest state-of-art facility, the total capacity to produce vaccines by Panacea Biotec would be doubled to two billion doses per annum. The commercial production has already commenced in April this year.

About Panacea Biotec

Panacea Biotec is one of India's leading research-based health management companies with established research, manufacturing and marketing capabilities. Panacea Biotec is the 2nd largest vaccine producer in India. Panacea Biotec has been ranked as the 3rd largest biotechnology company (ABLE Survey 2007) and is also amongst the top 50 pharmaceutical companies in India. The product portfolio of the Company includes highly innovative vaccines, biopharmaceuticals and prescription products in important therapeutic areas such as pain management, diabetes management, renal-disease management, anti-osteoporosis, anti-tubercular, gastro-intestinal care products. The company has collaborations and tie-ups with leading national and international research organizations and corporations. The company's state of the art manufacturing facilities for vaccines and pharmaceutical formulations comply with the US-FDA, UK-MHRA, SA-MCC and WHO-cGMP standards. The company has five research and development centers. It has around 2800 employees including over 280 highly skilled scientists. The company also has 24 product patents, valid in more than 60 countries worldwide.

*** Easyfive (Pentavalent) vaccine is available in different markets with antigens used from different sources i.e. Easyfive in India uses Hib from Novartis Vaccines and is meant for use in Indian market only whereas Easyfive PQ by WHO uses Hib developed by Panacea Biotec.**

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