

Panacea Biotech to meet Swine flu vaccination demand Signs Advance Market Commitment Agreement with Govt. of India

New Delhi, March 3, 2010: Panacea Biotech, India's 2nd largest biotechnology company will be giving the world, indigenously produced Pandylflu™, its vaccine against the H1N1 virus (Swine flu). Panacea Biotech is developing the conventional inactivated split virion vaccine using egg-based technology.

In view of recent onset of influenza A (H1N1) pandemic- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India (MoH-FW) has encouraged indigenous development of influenza A (H1N1) and / or other pandemic flu vaccines.

MoH-FW held a series of meetings with indigenous vaccine manufacturers to assess their capacity and willingness to develop, manufacture and supply the product. The ministry entered into this Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Agreement with Panacea Biotech and other two manufacturers recently at Delhi.

Commenting on the development **Mr. Soshil Kumar Jain - Chairman, Panacea Biotech** said, "Development of Pandylflu™ and AMC with MoH-FW is one of the most prestigious milestones for the company. Vaccine development and production has been a great strength with Panacea Biotech. This time again the company has responded to a global call by coming forward to contribute towards protection against the pandemic. I am glad that our scientists have been fully equipped to respond to the global emergency and are now ready to deliver the product Pandylflu™."

Mr. Sandeep Jain, Joint Managing Director, Panacea Biotech commented, "We have come forward to take this up as a social responsibility besides the revenues that follow. It is a test of our technological, managerial, operative and administrative competency beyond commercial aspects. I am proud that Panacea Biotech is exhibiting a leading outlook with dedicated service to public at large. Pandylflu™ is not just another product to generate revenues but aimed to serve national emergency to protect people against Swine flu."

Mr. Sumit Jain, Director Operations & Projects, Panacea Biotech remarked "As the world is dealing with the deadly swine flu, the public looks forward to healthcare companies like Panacea Biotech – pioneers in vaccine development to offer advice and solution to such drastic health emergencies. It has been reported to be a global pandemic in 168 countries worldwide including India. Our Supply Chain Management (SCM) competencies enable us to respond swiftly, to such emergency situations. The Pandylflu™ will shortly go in production and will be delivered across the market through a highly effective SCM network."

Dr. V.K. Vinayak, President (R&D), Panacea Biotech reflects, "We have ensured that in the event of a deadly pandemic, our country is not caught flat-footed. Our scientists have been receptive, affable and eager to contribute in emergency situations. We have employed egg based technology which is a sure shot path for developing flu vaccine with more than 40 years experience and well established regulatory pathways. We are committed to deliver a product matching international standards to boost immunogenicity and dramatically to reduce the amount of viral antigen required, resulting in faster production of swine flu vaccine quantities to fulfill the global need."

Panacea Biotech has set up a state of the art BSL2 level manufacturing unit (high-containment facility) with BSL3 practices on its sprawling campus spread over 75 acres of land at Lalru, Punjab for manufacturing of Pandylflu™ vaccine. This facility has an annual capacity to manufacture 45 million doses* of the vaccine.

The company has developed a unique virus purification strategy that has yielded satisfactory results in trial runs. The company used the seed virus to produce three consecutive batches of the vaccine using embryonated chicken eggs. To develop this technology, the company had procured a classical reassortant virus from CDC, Atlanta in June 2009. With unprecedented speed, the company has completed all key steps in development process of H1N1 vaccine.

Phase I trials in healthy adult volunteers indicate excellent safety and encouraging immunogenicity after two doses. It is expected that Phase I studies would be completed by March 2010 to be followed by Phase II/III studies in adult and pediatric population.

Panacea Biotec has been working very closely with MoH-FW, DCGI and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to develop this vaccine in an accelerated manner. It is expected that process of licensing with Govt. of India will be over by July, 2010. Panacea Biotec is hopeful that Pandyaflu™ vaccine would be available by April 2010 for emergency use authorization, subject to EUA clearance by DCGI on completion of Phase I trials.

**based on 7.5mcg/dose calculation*

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- June 2009) and is also amongst the top 50 pharmaceutical companies in India. The product portfolio of the Company includes highly innovative prescription products in important therapeutic areas such as pain management, diabetes management, renal-disease management, anti-osteoporosis, anti-tubercular, gastro-intestinal care products and vaccines. 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 International Regulatory requirements like US-FDA, UK-MHRA, SA-MCC and WHO-cGMP standards. Panacea Biotec has five dedicated research and development centers. The company has around 3200 employees including over 300 scientists. The company also has 24 product patents, valid in more than 60 countries worldwide.

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