

**Press Release
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**Panacea Biotec Receives Pre-Qualification Certification
From WHO for Supply of Hepatitis-B Vaccine to UN Agencies**

Panacea Biotec, after meaningful contribution in eradicating Polio, now steps ahead to combat Hepatitis-B, a deadly disease that affects the liver. It has received pre-qualification accreditation from WHO for the supply of recombinant Hepatitis B vaccine to UN agencies.

The overall estimated market for Hepatitis-B vaccine and its combinations as per UNICEF and PAHO for year 2007 is around 158 million doses, which is estimated to go up to 185 million doses in 2008 and 888 million doses in 2009. In terms of revenues, it would amount to around USD 270 million in 2007, going up to USD 390 million in 2008 and USD 1 billion in 2009. In 2000, there have been 5.7 million cases of acute Hepatitis-B infection and more than 521,000 deaths from Hepatitis-B related disease, worldwide. The World Health Organization, in the year 1999, called for all children to receive the Hepatitis-B vaccine, and 116 countries have added this vaccine to their routine immunization programme.

In India, Hepatitis-B vaccine is in the process of being listed in the list of 'essential vaccines', but there exists a huge market in the private sector, keeping in view the birth cohort of around 25 million new borne every year. Panacea Biotec was amongst the first Indian companies to have introduced Hepatitis-B vaccine in the country. At present, it is marketing its Hepatitis-B vaccine and combination vaccines through its Joint Venture company, Chiron Panacea Vaccines Pvt. Ltd. having brand names- Enivac HB, Easyfour (Hepatitis B + DPT) and Easyfive (Hepatitis B + DTP + Hib).

The main aim of Hepatitis B immunization strategies is to prevent chronic Hepatitis-B virus (HBV) infection and its serious consequences, including liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular cancer.

"There has been constant growth in Panacea Biotec revenue due to strong vaccine sales and our inclusion in the list of pre-qualified suppliers of WHO will significantly enhance our presence in this segment, resulting in better sales volumes and profitability," says, Mr. Rajesh Jain, Joint Managing Director, Panacea Biotec.

About Hepatitis-B

Hepatitis-B is caused by a virus that affects the liver. The virus is carried in the blood and other body fluids. Infection in young children usually is asymptomatic, but a larger proportion of children may become chronic carriers compared to adults. However people who do show symptoms may feel weak and may experience stomach upsets and other flu-like symptoms. They may also have very dark urine or very pale stools. Jaundice is common (yellow skin or a yellow color in the whites of the eyes). A small portion of acute infections can be severe and lead to death. The most serious complications, including chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer occur in people with chronic infection. There is no treatment for the acute condition. Only supportive treatment is indicated. In chronic infection the disease can sometimes be stopped with medications.

It is recommended that all infants receive three doses of Hepatitis-B vaccine during the first year of life. Hepatitis-B vaccine is a cloudy liquid that is provided in single or multi-dose vials, either alone (called monovalent) or in combination with other essential vaccines, viz, DTP (tetravalent) or DTP and Hib (pentavalent).

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 manufacturer in India. Panacea Biotec has been ranked as the 3rd largest biotechnology company (ABLE Survey 2006) in India and is also amongst the top 50 pharmaceutical companies in India.

Panacea Biotec has registered turnover of Rs. 5480 million during FY2006. The product portfolio of the company includes highly innovative prescription products in important therapeutic areas such as pain management, diabetes management, cardiovascular management, renal-disease management, osteoporosis management, 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 the US-FDA,

UK-MHRA, SA-MCC and WHO-cGMP standards. The company has four research and development centers. The company also has 10 international product patents. The company has over 2300 employees including over 200 scientists.

For accelerating innovation and growth, Panacea Biotec has undertaken effective alliances and collaborations. Panacea Biotec has a Joint Venture with Chiron Corporation, US (now known as Novartis Vaccines) to market new and innovative breakthrough combination vaccines in India. Its collaboration with Cambridge Biostability Ltd., UK for developing thermo stable vaccines, applying patented "Stable Liquid Technology"; in-licensing arrangements with Biotechnology Consortium of India Ltd. (BCIL); National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA and National Research Development Corporation of India are some of its vital strategic alliances done by Panacea Biotec Ltd.

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