

CO-DEVELOPMENT OF A GMP EMULSION-BASED ADJUVANT FOR HUMAN PROPHYLACTIC VACCINES, INCLUDING COVID-19 VACCINES

The Vaccine Formulation Institute (VFI) and Seppic are moving one step further in their partnership by finalizing the development of their first oil-in-water adjuvant designed for human prophylactic vaccines.

VFI and Seppic announced that they have finalized the development of an oil-in-water adjuvant at a Seppic plant in France. The adjuvant, manufactured under **Good Manufacturing Practices**, will be **openly available** from Seppic before the end of this year, for the entire vaccine community.

Developing new, safe and effective vaccines remains an issue for global health. Offering **open access to safe and effective adjuvant technologies, for all vaccine developers**, is a concrete action to address this major challenge.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, **VFI is a not-for-profit company** which is dedicated to providing adjuvant technologies and vaccine formulation expertise to interested researchers and vaccine developers.

For more than 25 years, **Seppic**, a subsidiary company of Air Liquide Healthcare, has been **actively engaged in global health** by developing and manufacturing various adjuvant technologies at an industrial scale, for the benefit all vaccine producers.

Reaffirming their shared commitments, VFI and Seppic have combined their expertise to jointly develop and industrialize their first open access squalene oil-in-water adjuvant for prophylactic human vaccines. Oil-in-water adjuvants are already used in vaccines essential for global health (**seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines**) with demonstrated safety and efficacy profiles. They are also suitable for various other prophylactic vaccine applications, **including COVID-19 vaccine candidates**.

Nicolas Collin, VFI Executive Director, said: *“Adjuvants are essential components of vaccines. However, open access to clinical grade adjuvants is an on-going challenge for the vaccine community. We are excited that this co-development will enable, for the first time, the vaccine community to openly access an oil-in-water adjuvant suitable for use with human prophylactic vaccines”*.

Patrice Dubois, VFI Scientific Director, commented: *“Oil-in-water adjuvants are already used in several influenza vaccines. They additionally have many potential applications for the development of other types of vaccines. The use of this type of adjuvant technology in vaccine candidates against SARS-CoV-2 is part of the global research effort against COVID-19”*.

François Bertrand, in charge of vaccine adjuvant technologies at Seppic, stated: *“This co-development illustrates our commitment to bring ready-to-use adjuvants to the vaccine community. We strongly believe this will accelerate the development of new prophylactic human vaccines and will contribute to a healthier future, everywhere and for everyone”*.

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VFI IN BRIEF

VFI is a not-for-profit organization created in 2012. VFI's mission is to facilitate access to adjuvant technologies for the benefit of the global vaccine community, through provision of adjuvants, R&D on vaccine formulations, and training. VFI is a partner in several global vaccine development consortia and programmes, contributing to global health with a specific focus on resource-constrained countries. www.vformulation.org

SEPPIC IN BRIEF

A company of Air Liquide Healthcare, Seppic designs and markets a wide range of specialty ingredients for health and beauty. Present in 100 countries through its subsidiaries and its network of distributors, Seppic employs 770 people worldwide, including 100 employees dedicated to innovation. www.seppic.com

AIR LIQUIDE HEALTHCARE IN BRIEF

Supplies medical gases, home healthcare services, hygiene products, medical equipment and specialty ingredients. In 2019, it served over 15,000 hospitals and clinics and more than 1.7 million patients at home throughout the world. The Group's Healthcare business reached €3.7 billion in revenues in 2019, with the support of its 16'500 employees.