

AdaptVac receives DKK 2.6 million grant for vaccine project to dramatically reduce antibiotic use in the swine industry

Hørsholm, Denmark, February 19, 2019 – AdaptVac announces its participation in a new vaccine development project aimed at preventing post-weaning diarrhea (PWD), a major cause of antibiotic use in the swine industry. The project has been awarded a Grand Solutions grant worth DKK 11 million by the Danish Innovation Foundation, of which DKK 5 million supports Virus-Like Particle (VLP) platform technology development with DKK 2.6 million earmarked for AdaptVac.

AdaptVac's part of the grant will support a four-year VLP vaccine research program. The goal of the project is to be able to protect pigs from PWD with the use of a simple needle injection, eliminating the need for costly and health-adverse antibiotic use.

"We are grateful for the support from the Danish Innovation Foundation to further develop AdaptVac's core VLP technology, and prove its applicability to the veterinary market. A cost-effective vaccine against PWD is sorely needed, and will provide farmers with the tools they need to ensure the health of their swine herds. Furthermore, antibiotic resistance is a looming threat to our society, and our vaccine will help reduce their use in animals, enabling farmers to meet upcoming European requirements", says Dr. Wian de Jongh, AdaptVac's CEO.

The need for a PWD vaccine

Post weaning diarrhea (PWD) is a worldwide economic burden to pig production, a major disease with welfare consequences, and a main reason for use of antimicrobials. Currently, there are no effective vaccines that prevent against this disease. It has been estimated to account for 17 % of reported deaths in the European swine industry. Treatment of PWD in the short 7-week post-weaning-period accounts for more than 1/3 of antimicrobial use for animals in Denmark. Zinc-oxide is currently used to reduce the problem, but according to EU regulations, this practice must be phased-out by 2022. There is an urgent need to find sustainable ways to prevent PWD in pigs. Failure to do so will reduce productivity and increase the use of antimicrobials.

"AdaptVac's innovative vaccine technology has already shown great potential during preclinical testing of human vaccines. For this reason and on the basis of having established a unique consortium of partners with different areas of expertise, we expect this research program to provide the first positive clinical data with great value for the swine industry", says Dr. Adam Frederik Sander Bertelsen, CSO.

Market potential

AdaptVac estimates that an effective PWD vaccine would reach accumulated net sales of EUR 100 million within 5 years after being launched on the market. Based on this, the expected value from royalties and milestones to AdaptVac would be in the double digit million DKK range during this period.

About the grant consortium

The consortium consists of members from the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Copenhagen (Department for Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and Department of Immunology and Microbiology (ISIM)), AdaptVac and SEGES (the merger of the former Knowledge Centre for Agriculture and the Danish Pig Research Centre).

About AdaptVac ApS

AdaptVac is a joint venture between ExpreS²ion Biotechnologies and NextGen Vaccines, combining ExpreS²ion's platform with novel proprietary and ground-breaking Virus-Like Particle (VLP) technology, developed at the University of Copenhagen. The company aims to accelerate the development of highly efficient therapeutic and prophylactic vaccines within high value segments of oncology, infectious diseases and immunological disorders.

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