



## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### **Imugene offered \$880,000 Grant to support development of bird flu vaccines for poultry**

**8 November 2006:** Imugene (ASX:IMU) has been offered an Australian government Commercial Ready Grant to produce and test vaccines to protect chickens from the H5N1 avian influenza virus.

Imugene has already announced the construction of vaccine candidates and that these will undergo live testing in a high security facility operated by Benchmark Biolabs in Nebraska, US. These trials begin later this month and are scheduled for completion in January 2007.

Imugene has designed vaccines to be inexpensive, safe, and easy to mass administer in poultry sheds. This will enable rapid and widespread protection of commercial poultry without the need to individually inject each bird.

The vaccines for egg-laying and meat producing chickens could make a substantial contribution to protecting poultry from avian influenza.

The Imugene vaccines use technology that enables identification of naturally infected and vaccinated birds. This is very important for the international poultry trade and for eradication programs.

Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane congratulated Imugene Limited on being offered the grant. "Bird flu is deadly and unpredictable and a project to test vaccines to protect chickens from the virus will be an enormous breakthrough," Mr Macfarlane said.

"The Australian Government is committed to helping companies such as Imugene develop vaccines which can be used globally and rid the world of a deadly threat. What is very encouraging is that the company is already primed to commence trials soon, with a completion date in early in 2007."

"This funding is important for Imugene and its shareholders as it strengthens our financial resources for product development," said Dr Warwick Lamb, managing director of Imugene. "We are very grateful to the Commonwealth for this support and consider it an investment in the overall defence against bird flu outbreaks."

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Imugene is matching the Commercial Ready Grant offer dollar-for-dollar. Milestone payments will be drawn over two years with the project period having begun on 1 October 2006.

The trial vaccines utilise Imugene's proven *Fowl Adenoviral Delivery Vector*. This technology delivers genetic material throughout a bird's bloodstream to stimulate the immune system against the bird flu virus. The vaccines deliver only a portion of the virus genetic material instead of the whole virus. This makes the Imugene vaccines safe by preventing any chance of mutations or recombination with human flu viruses.

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### **About Imugene (ASX: IMU)**

Imugene specialises in commercialising animal health products for production animals including pigs and poultry.

Imugene owns the worldwide rights to the *Fowl Adenoviral Vector Delivery System* for poultry and the *Porcine Adenoviral Vector Delivery System* for pigs. Imugene has successfully licensed the first product based on the *Fowl Adenoviral Vector Delivery System* – the *Poultry Productivity Enhancer*.

Imugene's poultry and pig portfolio is targeting a worldwide US\$3 billion annual market with four lead vaccine products under development and a strong product pipeline. Consumer demands for disease free and residue free food will bolster Imugene's prospects.

Imugene's products safely prevent disease and reduce or eliminate antibiotics and harmful chemicals in animals. Animal antibiotics and chemicals in the human food chain have been linked to the emergence of dangerous resistant bacteria in people and food residues.

For more information please visit the Imugene Website [www.imugene.com](http://www.imugene.com)

### **About Benchmark Biolabs**

Benchmark Biolabs Inc, based in Lincoln, Nebraska, is a privately held contract service provider serving the life science industry. Benchmark's customers include traditional and non-traditional biologics firms seeking technology development in a compliant environment. Benchmark has developed particular capabilities for the application of creative scientific solutions to address product development needs along a defined regulatory pathway for conventional and novel technologies. More specific information regarding Benchmark Biolabs may be obtained by contacting Dr Tom Overbay, Director, Business Development at [toverbay@benchmarkbiolabs.com](mailto:toverbay@benchmarkbiolabs.com).

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