



ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Imugene PRRS Pig Vaccine Successfully moves into Product Development Phase

Latest development trial confirms efficacy and final construction of Imugene's PRRS vaccine

10 November 2004, Sydney: Imugene (ASX: IMU) has successfully completed a pig trial finalising the product composition and dose of Imugene's new PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) pig vaccine. Individual components of the vaccine were trialled and the efficacy of each component was determined. The final dose form for the commercial product has now been established based on the best performing combination of the tested components. This optimised PRRS vaccine will be fast-tracked into commercial product development.

PRRS is a severe disease of pigs characterised by reproductive failure in female pigs as well as increased pre-weaning deaths and pneumonia in young growing pigs. Based on market research the global revenue estimates for an effective PRRS vaccine have been revised upward to between US\$200 – 400 million pa.

Imugene's Managing Director, Dr Warwick Lamb commented, "The results from this latest trial have validated previous trials and refined our product for world markets. We now have the best possible commercial vaccine composition ready for the latter stages of product development and launch.

"PRRS is an economically important disease for pig producers in the USA and Europe. In view of these latest trial results, we are now accelerating the product development phase."

"The PRRS vaccine has now completed in-house testing and will move to the development phase in commercial herds. Product development will now progress to regulatory trials in the principal target markets of the USA and Europe. These are likely to be conducted with commercial partners in the northern hemisphere. PRRS does not currently occur in Australia.

"Negotiations will be advanced more rapidly with large global animal health companies to progress external validation trials prior to licensing arrangements. Costs for the PRRS vaccine product development will be borne by the licensing partner," stated Dr Lamb.

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Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)

PRRS is caused by a virus that was first isolated and classified as recently as 1991. The disease syndrome had been first recognised in the USA in the mid 1980's and was called "mystery swine disease".

The clinical signs of PRRS vary widely, possibly due to a variety of modifying factors, such as differences in genetic susceptibility, environmental factors, herd management, immune status and virus strain differences. There is also an increased incidence and severity of secondary bacterial and viral respiratory infections that further increase the economic losses in affected pig herds.

The search for an effective PRRS vaccine has been a major focus of research by animal health companies in all major pig producing countries as currently available vaccines have limited efficacy. There has been significant difficulty in developing safe and effective PRRS vaccines using existing scientific methodology. The basis for the efficacy of the new Imugene PRRS vaccine is the patented "**Adenoviral Delivery Vector**".

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Visit the Imugene Website: www.imugene.com

ABOUT IMUGENE:

Imugene specialises in commercialising animal health products for production animals and pets.

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.

Imugene owns the worldwide rights to two platform technologies. The **Receptor Mimic Technology** for gastrointestinal diseases of pigs and potentially all other animal species. Secondly, the **Adenoviral Vector Delivery System** for pigs and poultry delivers Imugene's highly effective *poultry productivity enhancer*.

Imugene's poultry and pig portfolio is targeting a worldwide US\$3 billion annual market and replace existing chemical and antibiotic products. Consumer demands for residue free food and health regulatory pressures will bolster Imugene's prospects.