

REACH  
AIM: FIPP  
05 September 2024

**Frontier IP Group plc  
("Frontier IP" or the "Group")**

**Portfolio news - The Vaccine Group leads project awarded £1 million by UK government to combat bacterial infection in pigs**

Frontier IP, a specialist in commercialising intellectual property, today notes the following announcement from the University of Plymouth that a new project including portfolio company The Vaccine Group ("TVG" or the "Company") has been awarded more than £1 million to develop a vaccine against a widespread, harmful and zoonotic pig disease. The research is being supported by a grant from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs ("Defra") Farming Innovation Programme, delivered by Innovate UK.

Led by TVG, the University of Plymouth and the University of Cambridge, the project will seek to develop a vaccine to combat *Streptococcus suis* ("S.suis"). The vaccine aims to provide cross-protection against different strains of the disease.

S. suis is a bacterial disease that reduces pig farming productivity. It is endemic in the global pig population, estimated at 780 million strong, and affects up to 60 per cent of pig farms in European countries. It can jump from pigs to humans causing meningitis, septicaemia and other symptoms.

There is no vaccine for the disease that currently protects against different strains, so it is frequently treated with antibiotics. Effective vaccines that protect against several strains of the disease will reduce the need for antibiotics. Frontier IP holds a 17 per cent equity stake in the Company.

**Frontier IP Chief Commercialisation Officer Matthew White said:** *"We are delighted that Defra is supporting this important project. Streptococcus suis can cause significant economic harm to pig farmers and is potentially fatal to humans. With governments globally looking to curb antibiotic use, developing effective vaccines is crucial."*

**University of Plymouth statement begins:**

**Scientists trial new vaccine to tackle bacterial infection in pigs**

*Streptococcus suis* can cause serious, and often fatal, disease in pigs and be transferred to humans working with them

Thursday 05 September 2024

Scientists have been awarded significant government funding to develop a vaccine that could halt the development and spread of one of the more common diseases affecting the UK pig population.

*Streptococcus suis* is a bacterial infection that can cause serious, and often fatal, disease in pigs but can also be transferred to humans working with them.

It has been shown to affect more than 60% of pig farms in a number of countries across Europe, posing challenges for both the pork industry and public health.

At present, there are no proven vaccines addressing the many strains of the disease, with infected pigs being treated using a number of different antibiotics.

However, with the UK Government targeting a 50% reduction in antibiotic use in livestock by 2030 - and a global drive to reduce the threats posed by antimicrobial resistance - an effective vaccine is urgently required.

The new project - led by The Vaccine Group, the University of Plymouth, and the University of Cambridge - aims to deliver that.

It will assess whether a vaccine candidate already shown to be effective against the most common strain of the disease can in fact protect pigs - and thereby prevent transmission to humans - against multiple, if not all, known strains.

The research is being supported by a grant of just over £1million from Defra's Farming Innovation Programme, delivered by Innovate UK.

**Dr Jeremy Salt, Chief Executive Officer at The Vaccine Group, said:** *"For pig farmers across the UK, Streptococcus suis is a major cause for concern and can lead to significant losses - both in terms of animals and financially. As a zoonotic infection, there is also the risk of the disease being passed on to humans working in the industry. Our goal in developing an effective vaccine is stop the bacterial infection from developing in pigs and humans in the first place. By doing so, we can better protect the farmers, their animals and their livelihoods. We can also make pork production more efficient, humane and sustainable, at the same time helping the sector address the global challenges of antibiotic resistance and carbon emissions."*

The project brings together world-leading experts in vaccine development, antimicrobial resistance and veterinary medicine.

It will build on previous research by The Vaccine Group and the University of Plymouth, through which the potential candidate for the *Streptococcus suis* vaccine was identified.

It works by administering a harmless virus which in turn generates greater quantities of proteins that induce an immune

response in the animals.

The new trials, carried out in conjunction with animal health specialists at Moredun Scientific Ltd, will explore its potential to protect against different and emerging strains of the disease.

The research team will also engage directly with the pig farming community, to ensure the vaccine not only meets their requirements but can also be administered in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

#### **University of Plymouth statement ends**

#### **ENQUIRIES**

##### **Frontier IP Group Plc**

T: 020 7332 2338

Neil Crabb, Chief Executive

neil@frontierip.co.uk

Andrew Johnson, Communications and investor relations

M: 07464 546 025

andrew.johnson@frontierip.co.uk

Company website: [www.frontierip.co.uk](http://www.frontierip.co.uk)

##### **Allenby Capital Limited (Nominated Adviser)**

T: 0203 328 5656

Nick Athanas / George Payne

##### **The Vaccine Group**

Jeremy.salt@thevaccinegroup.co.uk

Jeremy Salt, CEO

#### **About The Vaccine Group**

TVG was founded in 2017 to develop and commercialise animal vaccines and biotherapeutics based on the recombinant vaccine technology work of Dr Michael Jarvis, Associate Professor in Virology and Immunology at the University of Plymouth's School of Biomedical Sciences.

Through a mixed funding model of public grants, commercial funding and private equity, TVG has established a pipeline of projects that address infectious and chronic diseases in animals that have a serious commercial impact on livestock production, or affect quality or longevity of life in companion animals.

Due to the earlier ability to test animal vaccines in their intended host, and the relative speed at which animal compared to human product development, the animal health market is increasingly seen as a highly valuable market for investment.

#### **About Frontier IP**

Frontier IP unites science, finance and industry by identifying strong intellectual property and accelerating its development through a range of commercialisation services. A critical part of the Group's work is involving relevant industry partners at an early stage of development to ensure technology meets real world demands and needs.

The Group looks to build and grow a portfolio of equity stakes and licence income by taking an active involvement in spin-out companies, including support for fund raising and collaboration with relevant industry partners at an early stage of development.

#### **About Reach announcements**

This is a Reach announcement. Reach is an investor communication service aimed at assisting listed and unlisted (including AIM quoted) companies to distribute media only / non-regulatory news releases into the public domain. Information required to be notified under the AIM Rules for Companies, Market Abuse Regulation or other regulation would be disseminated as an RNS regulatory announcement and not on Reach.

This information is provided by Reach, the non-regulatory press release distribution service of RNS, part of the London Stock Exchange. Terms and conditions relating to the use and distribution of this information may apply. For further information, please contact [ms@lseg.com](mailto:ms@lseg.com) or visit [www.ms.com](http://www.ms.com).

RNS may use your IP address to confirm compliance with the terms and conditions, to analyse how you engage with the information contained in this communication, and to share such analysis on an anonymised basis with others as part of our commercial services. For further information about how RNS and the London Stock Exchange use the personal data you provide us, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

END

NRAEAKNLEAPLEFA