

**TAGS:**

[R&D](#) [Vaccines](#) [African swine fever](#)

# Pacific GeneTech and EpiVax combine forces to work on ASF vaccine

01 May 2020

**NEWS**



[Joseph Harvey@JHJournalist joseph.harvey@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:joseph.harvey@ihsmarkit.com)

Hong Kong's Pacific GeneTech (PGT) is to collaborate with US-based EpiVax to develop a vaccine for African swine fever (ASF).



PGT is a biologics company that develops and commercializes next-generation vaccines for unmet or underserved needs in animal health. The company's Aegis vaccine platform combines cross-protective antigens and immunopotentiators in

vectors for broad spectrum protection against multiple strains and species of infectious diseases.

EpiVax – headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island – specializes in informatics and immunology. It has experience in supporting the development of vaccines for both humans and pigs with its immunogenicity risk assessment and computational vaccinology technology, as well as its expertise in T cell epitope prediction, immune modulation and rapid vaccine design. The firm's tools have been used to select the best strains of circulating viruses for making vaccines.

The partners are working on a vaccine that is based on proprietary viral epitopes "most likely to provide both potent and cross-protective efficacy against ASF". This approach includes a combination of a heterologous prime boost vaccination regimen designed to generate "a potent cell-mediated response and a robust humoral antibody response". PGT has proof-of-concept studies planned for the ASF vaccine.

While PGT told *Animal Pharm* it is too early to estimate the development timeline for the ASF vaccine, the company did say the EpiVax collaboration will not slow down the other projects it has in its pipeline.

The collaboration will also benefit from PGT's network of global animal health partners, which will be used to conduct a multi-site trial program against multiple genotypes of ASF virus. PGT will also leverage its partners to bring the ASF vaccine to market.

To date, PGT has licensed out two of its lead poultry vaccines. Last month, it entered an exclusive commercialization partnership with Kemin Industries that covered its *Salmonella* vaccine for poultry.

The vaccines developed by PGT can be administered orally or by injection in both live and inactivated forms. The company has previously out-licensed another of its poultry vaccines against an "economically important gastro-intestinal pathogen" to an undisclosed partner.

The firm has also produced the Hercules adjuvant/delivery system, which provides enhanced efficacy of inactivated vaccines. Hercules has been licensed out for use in third-party vaccines.