

# Pacific GeneTech to commercialize poultry vaccine through Kemin pact

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## NEWS



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Hong Kong-based Pacific GeneTech (PGT) will take its veterinary vaccine business worldwide via an exclusive commercialization partnership with Kemin Industries.



PGT has licensed its *Salmonella* vaccine for poultry to Kemin, which will further develop the product and register it in various markets. Kemin will initially target approval in the US during 2021, before moving on to other markets such as Europe, Asia and Africa.

Kemin's vaccines business – Kemin Biologics – will oversee product registration processes around the world. Kemin has customers in over 120 countries.

PGT told *Animal Pharm* it will work with Kemin on any development work needed for the *Salmonella* poultry vaccine before it obtains US approval. While financial specifics of the partnership were not revealed, PGT said it involves an upfront payment, milestones and royalties.

The vaccine addresses multiple serovars of *Salmonella*. It was developed using PGT's proprietary Aegis platform, which combines cross-protective antigens and immunopotentiators in vectors for broad spectrum protection against multiple bacteria, parasites and viruses.

A spokesperson for PGT said the company "will be working on further R&D with the same vaccine construct beyond the poultry application into swine and ruminants". The firm is currently looking for potential licensing partners for these hosts.

Both the Aegis platform and the *Salmonella* vaccine were originally developed by the University of Arkansas's Poultry Health Laboratory "in collaboration with other US and Canadian universities and with support from the USDA and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission". PGT was founded in 2009 to commercialize the technology coming out of this consortium of US universities.

PGT's vaccines can be administered orally or by injection in both live and inactivated forms. In 2018, the company [conducted a US trial](#) that demonstrated the ability of PGT's vaccine technology to provide cross-protection across multiple *Salmonella* serovars.

The company previously out-licensed another of its poultry vaccines against an "economically important gastro-intestinal pathogen" to an undisclosed partner and has also out-licensed its Hercules adjuvant for use in third-party vaccines.

PGT said vaccines for other pathogens and animal species are currently under development, "including an experimental vaccine for African swine fever". The firm is also developing other applications for its Hercules adjuvant/delivery system and for its Argo yeast vector.

## **Kemin growing further into vaccines space**

This latest deal builds on Kemin's increasing coverage in the veterinary vaccine area.

The US feed ingredients business stepped into the veterinary vaccines market in 2018 when it [bought a stake in Aptimmune Biologics](#). The deal resulted in the creation of Kemin AptiVax, which is a wholly-owned division of Kemin Industries. The branch will exclusively manufacture and sell Aptimmune's mucosal vaccine technology for swine outside the US.

The company also owns Kemin Biologics, which is currently building a portfolio of vaccines to sell globally.

A spokesperson for Kemin Biologics told *Animal Pharm*: "We currently are not selling products yet, but we are actively working on getting registered in the US, south east Asia, India, East Africa and South Africa. We will be selling poultry (including PGT Salmonella) and foot-and-mouth vaccines.

Last year, Kemin bolstered its manufacturing capabilities in Egypt by increasing its partnership with local firm MEVAC.