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Indonesian poultry vaccine approval utilizes Pacific GeneTech adjuvant

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NEWS



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Pacific GeneTech (PGT) has witnessed the first approval of the use of its adjuvant technology with a poultry vaccine.



Indonesian business Medion received domestic authorization for the use of PGT's Hercules adjuvant technology with its coryza poultry vaccine.

The vaccine will be marketed first in Indonesia by Medion, which will then take the product to international markets through distribution partners. PGT and Medion are planning on carrying out further regulatory work together for additional markets.

The Hercules adjuvant will be manufactured in Indonesia via a joint venture between PGT and Medion. This collaboration was set up in 2017. The recent approval only covers the use of Hercules for Medion's coryza vaccine. If the company wants to use the adjuvant for other poultry vaccines, it will need additional approvals.

PGT told *Animal Pharm* having Hercules registered once will make the regulatory process somewhat easier for other vaccines.

Established in 1976, Medion is Indonesia's leading animal health company and distributes products throughout southeast Asia. The firm has annual revenues of around \$50 million.

It is focused on the poultry and livestock sectors with a portfolio of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, equipment and vitamins.

The Indonesian company has manufactured poultry vaccines under the Medivac brand since 1993 and, in recent years, has strived to help customers reduce their antibiotic usage. It sells its poultry vaccines in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Albania, Tanzania, Zambia, Philippines, Nepal and Egypt.

Strength of Hercules

PGT chief executive Tim Collard said Hercules is designed "to be particularly effective in boosting mucosal immunity in orally or nasally-administered vaccines but it can also be used effectively as an injectable".

Trials have shown Hercules has a better safety profile than oil-adjuvanted vaccines, according to PGT. The firm said the technology also provides good potency and duration of immunity, making it suitable for broilers and layers.

PGT holds the exclusive global rights to Hercules, which is the adjuvant used in all the company's inactivated veterinary vaccines.

The adjuvant is in the regulatory stage in the US for two PGT vaccines (*Salmonella* and *Eimeria*). It is also in trials with third-party vaccines for multiple animal species. The partners and disease targets for these vaccines are undisclosed.

PGT's proprietary Aegis vaccine platform combines cross-protective antigens and immunopotentiators in vectors for broad spectrum protection against multiple pathogen

strains and for various species. The firm's vaccines can be administered orally or by injection in both live and inactivated forms.

As well as out-licensing Hercules to third parties, the company – founded in 2009 – has also out-licensed two of its poultry vaccines.

PGT told *Animal Pharm* it is also developing other applications for Hercules. It is currently looking to "conduct trials with vaccine developers in swine and fish, other than in our existing PGT Aegis poultry vaccines".

The Hercules technology was originally developed by the Poultry Health Laboratory at the University of Arkansas to enhance the immune response to inactivated vaccines

PGT has "more than 10 partnerships testing Hercules with vaccine developers in different animal hosts and different applications".