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Arterial Remodeling Technologies receives regulatory approval

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Australian vaccine development company BioDiem Ltd has announced that it has begun research collaboration with France-based VIVALIS, a biopharmaceutical company with expertise in vaccine production technologies. The

collaboration involves investigation of the synergy of BioDiem's proprietary virus, LAIV, and VIVALIS' proprietary cell line, EB66. Successful results from this investigation could be used as a basis for a new agreement between the companies in order to test the feasibility of development of BioDiem's LAIV as a vector in VIVALIS' proprietary cell line. Viral vector technology is used in vaccines to deliver immune-stimulating proteins into the body. VIVALIS

is undertaking this initial research to further the high potential value of this technology in BioDiem's non-influenza vaccine applications.

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BioDiem has considerable in-house expertise around the Live Attenuated Influenza Virus (LAIV), having an existing LAIV-based technology for the production of influenza vaccines, currently generating licensing revenues in India and China.

BioDiem has proposed developing the LAIV as a versatile 'vector' (carrier) technology, which could be used to create a variety of new vaccines (both therapeutic and preventative). This proposed vector would be developed to have the additional advantages of a good safety profile and low toxicity (as the virus backbone is already weakened), excellent virus characterisation from extensive prior work, and the ability to be customised to target particular diseases.

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This initial collaboration involves VIVALIS confirming that BioDiem's LAIV strains grow Ã?Â satisfactorily in VIVALIS' proprietary cell line EB66 and examining any effects on the virus' characteristics. During this stage BioDiem's long-term collaborator, and LAIV developer, the Institute of Experimental Medicine in St Petersburg, will send an LAIV expert to work on-site with VIVALIS in France.