

Novavax Expands Large-Scale Global Manufacturing Capacity

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Novavax acquires Praha Vaccines in Czech Republic and aims for an annual operating capacity of over 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine antigen



Novavax, Inc., a late-stage biotechnology company developing next-generation vaccines for serious infectious diseases, on 27 May 2020 announced the acquisition of Praha Vaccines a.s., part of the Cyrus Poonawalla Group, in an all cash transaction of approximately \$167 million. The acquisition includes a biologics manufacturing facility and associated assets in Bohumil, Czech Republic. The facility is expected to provide an annual capacity of over 1 billion doses of antigen starting in 2021 for NVX-CoV2373, Novavax' COVID-19 vaccine candidate. NVX-CoV2373 consists of a stable, prefusion protein antigen made using its proprietary nanoparticle technology and includes Novavax' proprietary Matrix-M™ adjuvant.

“Manufacturing capacity is a critical component of our strategy to deliver a vaccine for the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Stanley C. Erck, President and Chief Executive Officer of Novavax. “This acquisition provides the vital assets required to produce more than 1 billion doses per year. In parallel with ramping up production at Bohumil, we will continue efforts to expand antigen capacity in the U.S. and Asia, and increase production of Matrix-M to match antigen capacity at multiple sites globally.”

The acquisition includes a 150,000-square foot state of the art vaccine and biologics manufacturing facility and other support buildings, along with the existing employees and all related and required infrastructure. The facility is completing a renovation that includes Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) capabilities. As part of the transaction, approximately 150 employees with significant experience in vaccine manufacturing and support have joined Novavax.

The acquisition of Praha Vaccines is supported by Novavax' funding arrangement with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), enabling Novavax to dramatically expand its manufacturing capacity. Novavax will work collaboratively with the Serum Institute of India (SII), part of the Cyrus Poonawalla Group, to increase production levels at the Bohumil facility by the end of 2020.

“We believe Novavax and Praha reflect the ideal complement of capabilities and expertise to advance innovative vaccines that are vitally needed at this critical time,” said Cyrus Poonawalla, Chairman and Founder of the Cyrus Poonawalla Group.

Cyrus Poonawalla Group is the parent company of Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd., (SII), founded in 1966 by Dr. Cyrus

Poonawalla with the aim of manufacturing life-saving immuno-biologicals. SII is the flagship company of the group based in India and is now the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by number of doses produced and sold globally (more than 1.3 billion doses per annum). In March 2020, SII and Novavax announced a commercial license agreement for the use of Novavax' proprietary Matrix-M™ vaccine adjuvant with SII's malaria vaccine candidate, currently in a Phase 2b clinical trial.