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MilliporeSigma expedites scale-up of lipids to meet COVID-19 demand

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Introduces new synthetic cholesterol product nine months ahead of schedule



To meet the high demand for lipids, a key component of mRNA-based vaccines and therapeutics, MilliporeSigma has launched a new, high-purity synthetic cholesterol product, nine months ahead of schedule.

"Tapping into two decades' experience of developing and manufacturing high-quality lipids, we designed a proprietary process to bring our new SAFC® synthetic cholesterol product to market nearly a year early," said Andrew Bulpin, head of Process Solutions at MilliporeSigma. "With the introduction of our new SAFC® synthetic cholesterol product, we have increased our capacity by 50 times, helping biomanufacturers bring lifesaving therapies to patients faster."

MilliporeSigma manufactures lipids in Schaffhausen, Switzerland; Darmstadt, Germany; and St. Louis, Missouri, USA. While there are animal-derived and synthetic versions of cholesterol available on the market, MilliporeSigma's synthetic cholesterol product offers high purity, scalability, and consistent quality.

This neutral lipid, used in commercially marketed products, is more than 99 percent pure; offers high batch-to-batch consistency and is scalable under commercial GMP. MilliporeSigma is one of a few companies in the world able to produce the quantities needed for lipid nanoparticle manufacturing and meet the quality requirements for mRNA therapeutics.