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ASIA EDITION

SK bioscience exports influenza vaccine to Thailand, entering Southern Hemisphere market

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SK bioscience has shipped approximately 440,000 doses of SKYCellflu to Biogenetech in Thailand from its vaccine manufacturing facility 'L HOUSE' in Andong, South Korea.

The vaccine, the company's self-developed cell-cultured influenza vaccine, contains the recommended composition of influenza virus for use in the 2024 Southern Hemisphere influenza season announced by the World Health Organization (WHO). Starting with the export to Thailand, SK bioscience expects to extend its sales not only in the Southeast Asian market but also in the Southern Hemisphere market.

Thailand is affected by both the WHO's Northern and Southern Hemisphere flu vaccination guidelines due to its elongated geography from north to south. Recently, Thailand Department of Disease Control has launched a vaccination campaign aimed at workers in 31 major tourist areas in efforts to prevent influenza after the COVID-19 pandemic.

SKYCellflu is the world's first cell culture-based influenza vaccine to obtain WHO Pre-qualification (PQ) certification. Last year, the company resumed production of SKYCellflu and secured first place in the national immunisation programme bid for the 2023-24 season after a three-year hiatus due to the production of the COVID-19 vaccine during the pandemic.

SK bioscience intends to expand its global market through procurement contacts with international organizations such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). SKYCellflu has already received marketing authorisations in 12 countries globally, including Malaysia, Singapore, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Chile. It is currently or will soon be approved in ten more countries, clearing the path for a full-fledged expansion of the export market.