

Univercells brings advanced Vaccine Manufacturing Platform

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Univercells and consortium partner Batavia Biosciences have been awarded a \$4 million grant extension by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to scale up their low-cost polio vaccine manufacturing technology.



Univercells, a business-to-business provider focused on increasing the availability of affordable biologics to address global health challenges, announced the commercial launch of its proprietary NevoLine™ bioproduction system for vaccines. The system was initially developed as part of a \$12M Grand Challenges grant awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to deliver affordable inactivated polio vaccine (sIPV).

Leading the consortium, Univercells was responsible for the NevoLine system, Batavia Biosciences for the polio manufacturing process, and Merck for the purification membrane.

After attaining its goals of delivering a very low Cost of Goods for a sIPV below \$0.30 per trivalent dose, the consortium has now received a \$4M grant extension to scale-up the manufacturing system and process in preparation for clinical and commercial application.

The first NevoLine system will be installed in BataviaBiosciences' polio dedicated Biosafety level 3 Facility in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Based on novel process architecture, Univercells designed the automated NevoLine bioproduction system that facilitates safer, faster and closed bioprocessing in a much smaller footprint. Through intensification and chaining of unit steps into a continuous process, users achieve high yields with less time and money invested. The sIPV production process using the NevoLine system is capable of producing trivalent sIPV at less than \$0.30/dose, representing a five-fold reduction compared to current manufacturing technologies.

"This challenging two-year project aimed at delivering a new manufacturing system to drastically decrease cost, footprint and time to market for vaccine manufacturers, and we are pleased to have met these goals," Hugues Bultot, CEO and co-founder

of Univercells said. "The NevoLine system is self-contained into a 6m² series of isolators. A facility designed with four NevoLine units would deliver up to 50 million sIPV doses per year for an estimated capital cost of \$20M. These breakthrough achievements further strengthen our dedication to innovating flexible, scalable and accessible vaccines and biotherapeutics manufacturing solutions."

Univercells remains more than ever dedicated to developing turnkey solutions for a series of vaccines and biotherapeutics, to be delivered at an affordable price.