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4D Pharma with MSD to develop Live Biotherapeutics for vaccines

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4D's proprietary MicroRxÂ® platform will be paired with MSD's expertise in the development and commercialisation of novel vaccines



4D pharma plc, a UK based pharmaceutical company leading the development of Live Biotherapeutics, has announced that the Company has entered into a research collaboration and option to license agreement with MSD, the tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA, to discover and develop Live Biotherapeutics (LBPs) for vaccines.

Under the terms of the agreement 4D's proprietary MicroRx® platform will be paired with MSD's expertise in the development and commercialisation of novel vaccines, to discover and develop LBPs as vaccines in up to three undisclosed indications. 4D has the right, subject to certain conditions, to cause MSD to purchase $5 million in ordinary shares in 4D during the first 12 months of the collaboration.

In addition to an upfront cash payment, for each indication, 4D will be eligible to receive up to $347.5 million in option exercise and development and regulatory milestone payments, plus tiered royalties on annual net sales of any licensed products derived from the collaboration. MSD will be responsible for development, manufacturing and commercialisation following the exercise of any of its exclusive options.