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Valneva expands access for its chikungunya vaccine with Serum Institute of India

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To bring the vaccine to the Indian market, and certain other Asian countries



France-based Valneva SE, a specialty vaccine company, and Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines by number of doses, have announced an exclusive license agreement for Valneva's single-shot chikungunya vaccine that enables supply of the vaccine in Asia.

The collaboration to support broader access to the vaccine in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) in the region falls within the framework of the $41.3 million funding agreement Valneva signed with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) in July 2024 with co-funding from the European Union.

The companies will work urgently to bring the vaccine to the Indian market, and certain other Asian countries, subject to local regulatory approvals, as India is currently enduring one of its worst chikungunya outbreaks. Nearly 370,000 cases were confirmed in India between January 2019 and July 2024, a number rapidly increasing due to the current outbreak.

Under the agreement, the companies will conduct a technology transfer of the current drug product manufacturing process. Valneva will supply its chikungunya vaccine drug substance toâ?¯SII, which will complete manufacturing and be responsible for seeking and maintaining regulatory approval of the vaccine in India and other countries in Asia. Future commercialisation will be based on a profit-sharing model along with single-digit million milestone payments towards technology transfer and regulatory approvals to Valneva.

SII will also make available a stockpile of 100,000 doses of the drug product to CEPI as an 'investigational ready reserve' that could be used in clinical trials in the region. Such research could provide additional data on the performance of the vaccine among local populations.