

Embargo: September 9, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. (Brussels time)

SOLVAY'S CELL-BASED PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR INFLUENZA VACCINES VALIDATED AND OPERATIONAL

Solvay today announces that its affiliate Solvay Biologicals has completed the validation for its cell-based production facility following a successful inspection by the Dutch authorities. The 3,900m² facility in Weesp (the Netherlands) uses the latest technology in cell culturing for the production of influenza vaccines.

The validation of the new cell-based production facility will enable Solvay Pharmaceuticals to respond even better to the growing worldwide demand for influenza vaccines as it expands company's production capacity beyond its current egg-based manufacturing plant. In addition, a cell-based production process for influenza vaccines has the advantage that it is not dependent on the availability of embryonated chicken eggs, the supply of which can be at risk in case of bird flu. A cell-based vaccine also offers an alternative to people allergic to chicken proteins, since such vaccine is free of any chicken-derived material. The cell-based production unit and processes can be used for the production of both seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines.

In parallel, Solvay Pharmaceuticals also announces the registration of the first trivalent adjuvant cell-based seasonal influenza vaccine Grippol[®] Neo in Russia. This registration is the result of a fruitful and long-standing co-operation with the Russian pharmaceutical company Petrovax (Moscow, Russia), which obtained the required production certificate and registration for the vaccine for Russia. Grippol[®] Neo is a seasonal influenza vaccine based on influenza antigens produced by Solvay Biologicals in its cell-based facility and Petrovax's proprietary adjuvant Polyoxidonium[®]. This new preservation free vaccine is formulated in a fully ISO and GMP certified facility of Petrovax near Moscow. Grippol[®] Neo will be marketed in Russia during the upcoming influenza season of 2009/2010.

"The validation of our new, state-of-the-art cell-based production plant will further reinforce Solvay Pharmaceuticals' strong position and enable it to contribute even more to the protection of millions patients around the world against the influenza virus," says Drs. Sjik Kok, Executive Vice-President, Solvay Biologicals.

Update on Solvay Pharmaceuticals' pandemic influenza vaccines development (H1N1)

The company's egg-based production facility is currently producing seasonal vaccines at full capacity till mid September. When this production is completed, pandemic H1N1 antigens will be produced in the egg-based facility for feasibility studies. Meanwhile, the production of clinical batches of pandemic H1N1 antigens was initiated in the cell-based facility in late August.

Further decisions on the development of pandemic influenza vaccines have not been taken at this point and will depend on different factors, including the results from the feasibility studies and future guidelines from health authorities.

With this strategy Solvay Pharmaceuticals retains its production capacity to fulfill the global medical need for seasonal influenza vaccines, while being ready to switch production in its egg-facility from seasonal vaccines to pandemic vaccines if the need arises.

For further information please contact:

ERIK DE LEYE
Corporate Press Officer
SOLVAY S.A.
Tel: +32 2 509 7230
erik.deleye@solvay.com
www.solvaypress.com

FILIP GOOSSENS
Global Pharma. Communications
SOLVAY PHARMACEUTICALS S.A.
Tel: +32 2 509 6746
filip.goossens@solvay.com
www.solvaypharmaceuticals.com

PATRICK VERELST
Head of Investor Relations
SOLVAY S.A.
Tel: +32 2 509 7243
patrick.verelst@solvay.com
www.solvay-investors.com

Ce communiqué de presse est également disponible en français - Dit persbericht is ook in het Nederlands beschikbaar

About Grippol® Neo

Grippol® Neo is a seasonal influenza vaccine registered in Russia by Petrovax. Grippol® Neo is based on influenza antigens, produced by Solvay Biologicals bv in its cell-based facility and Petrovax' proprietary adjuvant Polyoxidonium®. This new preservation-free vaccine is formulated in a modern fully ISO and GMP certified facility of Petrovax near Moscow. Grippol® Neo belongs to a novel generation of adjuvanted inactivated subunit vaccines and is delivered as single-use syringes.

PETROVAX GROUP is a Russian pharmaceutical company that was founded in 1996. Petrovax Group develops and produces a range of innovative pharmaceutical products and vaccines, including the influenza vaccine Grippol®. Solvay Pharmaceuticals and Petrovax collaborate since 2004 on the development of next generation vaccines.

SOLVAY BIOLOGICALS bv is a Dutch fully-owned subsidiary of Solvay Pharmaceuticals, and is one of the leading influenza vaccines manufacturers worldwide.

SOLVAY PHARMACEUTICALS is a research driven group of companies that constitutes the global pharmaceutical business of the Solvay Group. These companies seek to fulfill carefully selected, unmet medical needs in the therapeutic areas of neuroscience, cardiometabolic, influenza vaccines, gastroenterology and men's and women's health. Its 2008 sales were EUR 2.7 billion, and it employs more than 9,000 people worldwide. For more information, visit www.solvaypharmaceuticals.com.

SOLVAY is an international chemical and pharmaceutical Group with headquarters in Brussels. It employs more than 29,000 people in 50 countries. In 2008, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 9.5 billion, generated by its three sectors of activity: Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals. Solvay is listed on the NYSE Euronext stock exchange in Brussels (NYSE Euronext: SOLB.BE - Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBt.BR). Details are available at www.solvay.com.