Pacific GeneTech turns focus to next candidates in vaccine pipeline

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Editor

Pacific GeneTech (PGT) is looking to licence out its second group of veterinary vaccines.

The company has exclusively licensed its Salmonella vaccine for poultry to Kemin Industries and its other lead product – a recombinant *Eimeria* vaccine – is reportedly licensed to a major company with a formal announcement "to be made soon". This is in addition to a previous license for the *Eimeria* vaccine in south east Asia.

With its first two lead vaccines in the hands of partners, PGT is now focused on commercializing its Aegis II vaccines for swine, ruminants, companion animals and poultry.

The Aegis vaccine platform combines cross-protective antigens and immunopotentiators in vectors, for broad spectrum protection against multiple strains and species of infectious diseases.

PGT's chief executive Tim Collard said the Aegis II pipeline includes a vaccine for Salmonella and E coli for pigs, as well as a *Toxoplasma* and *Neospora* vaccine for ruminants. Speaking at the recent virtual summit held by the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, Mr Collard said PGT is also working on a necrotic enteritis vaccine for poultry.

The vaccines in the Aegis II range are expected to be ready for licensing in late 2020 or early 2021. Mr Collard said PGT is open to various types of commercialization deals. The firm will consider pre-regulatory license agreements for its vaccines.

PGT has also partnered with US company EpiVax to develop a DNA vaccine for African swine fever. The partners aim to combine a heterologous prime boost vaccination regimen designed to generate "a potent cell-mediated response and a robust humoral antibody response".

This year, PGT saw its Hercules adjuvant and delivery system receive its first regulatory approval for use in a third-party vaccine that is scheduled to be launched in south east Asia during 2021.

Source: IHS Markit, Animal Pharm