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Takeda unveils new dengue vaccine manufacturing plant in Germany

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The manufacturing plant opening marks an important milestone for Takeda's mission to tackle the global threat of dengue

Japan based Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited has announced the opening of its new manufacturing plant in Singen, Germany, for its dengue vaccine candidate, TAK-003. The Singen vaccine plant will be utilized for formulation, fill, finish and secondary packaging of the dengue vaccine candidate starting with the packaging line. Takeda invested more than 130 million Euro and will employ up to 200 employees in the vaccine plant.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), dengue is the fastest spreading mosquito-borne viral disease, which is estimated to cause approximately 390 million infections and 20,000 deaths globally each year.

"This project is one of our most significant investments within our global manufacturing network. We are proud to open this new, state of the art sterile manufacturing plant, which combines a high degree of automation with the most advanced digital and data-driven technologies," said Thomas Wozniewski, Global Manufacturing and Supply Officer. "Our Singen site has been selected for this investment as our employees have vast experience in lyophilization technology, which is key for the manufacturing process of Takeda's dengue vaccine candidate."

"This new production facility expands Takeda's global footprint in vaccine manufacturing beyond Hikari, Japan and reinforces our capability to manufacture at scale and meet the global demand that we anticipate for this vaccine," said Rajeev Venkayya, MD, President of the Global Vaccine Business Unit at Takeda.

Initial construction activities started at the end of 2016 and the plant is now ready to begin production for packaging, with the goal to launch end-to-end production closer to licensure.

Takeda's dengue vaccine candidate is currently being investigated in the pivotal Phase 3, multi-centered, global, double blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy, safety and immunogenicity of a tetravalent dengue vaccine administered subcutaneously in healthy children aged four to 16 years old. Takeda announced the trial met the primary efficacy endpoint in January 2019. The first interpretable results of the Tetravalent Immunization against Dengue Efficacy Study (TIDES) trial showed that the investigational live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine was efficacious in preventing dengue fever caused by any of the four serotypes of the virus. The TIDES trial is ongoing and additional results

will be published later this year, along with results from other Phase 3 studies. Takeda’s dengue vaccine candidate is not currently licensed anywhere in the world.