

## Aptamer Group partners with five global pharma companies for vaccine production

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**Partnership includes initial upfront payments and will potentially deliver recurring revenues for over 10 years**



Aptamer Group, the UK-based developer of Optimer therapeutics and diagnostics, has secured a contract with a top-five global pharmaceutical company to develop Optimers to support the development of a novel vaccine candidate for neurodegenerative disease.

The agreement includes an initial upfront payment to Aptamer Group with long term recurring licensing fees for over 10 years upon implementation of the assay into the partner's global vaccine manufacturing processes.

Aptamer Group will isolate Optimer reagents and incorporate them into an analytical assay to enable the vaccine candidate currently in clinical trials to achieve regulatory compliance. The Optimers will be used to develop a potency assay for the essential evaluation of the final vaccine. The Optimer reagents are expected to help overcome cross-reactivity issues and allow specific detection and quantification of the active vaccine component within the vaccine additives.

Optimer reagents, which are nucleic acid-based affinity reagents, can bind specifically to a target molecule and act as an antibody alternative. Their ability to fold into distinct secondary or tertiary structures gives them high target affinity and specific binding properties. They are emerging as promising alternatives to antibodies in a range of applications.