J&J begins Ebola vaccine trial in humans

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Singapore: The trial is being led by the Oxford Vaccine Group, part of the University of Oxford Department of Pediatrics.

Recruitment in the trial is underway, and the first volunteers have received their initial vaccine dose. Enrollment is expected to be completed by the end of January.

Johnson & Johnson also announced that Janssen, in partnership with Bavarian Nordic A/S, has produced more than 400,000 regimens of the prime-boost vaccine for use in large-scale clinical trials by April 2015.

A total of 2 million regimens will be available through the course of 2015, with the ability to quickly scale up to 5 million regimens, if required, over a 12- to 18-month period.

This increased projection is an update to Janssen's previous goal of producing more than 1 million regimens by the end of 2015, with 250,000 regimens for broad application in clinical trials by May 2015."As a leader in the field of global health, we have a responsibility to act swiftly as Ebola continues to cause suffering among patients, families and health care workers in West Africa," said Mr Alex Gorsky, chairman & CEO, Johnson & Johnson.

Modelling by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to advise the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that to bring the epidemic under control, current projected demand for a preventive vaccine ranges from a minimum of 100,000 doses to protect frontline workers to a high-end of 12 million doses for large-scale adult vaccination in the three affected countries.

"Because every day counts, we are substantially accelerating the production of our vaccine regimen," said Dr Paul Stoffels, chief scientific officer and worldwide chairman, pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson. "Through the unprecedented collaboration among the global health community, our goal is to bring this vaccine to families and frontline health care professionals as fast as possible."