

Avian influenza research Intervet supported by European Commission

Boxmeer, the Netherlands, October 20, 2006 – This week the European Commission decided to support 17 projects on avian influenza under the EU's Sixth Research Framework Program. One of the selected projects will be executed by Intervet together with its research partners, Friedrich Loeffler Institute Riems and Bommeli AG. They will receive a total funding of €1.37 million for the duration of three years.

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The primary aim of this project is to develop avian influenza vaccines based on live vector vaccines which can be mass applied through spray, drinking water or eye drop instead of injection.. This would offer considerable advantages like mass applicable administration and a less labour intensive and much more animal friendly application. Furthermore, vaccination via the airways, the natural route of infection also for influenza virus will result in a more complete and faster protection, which can be very important in case of a disease outbreak.

Another aim of this project is to develop sensitive, specific and easy to use marker diagnostic tests, to allow differentiation between vaccinated and infected birds.

“We are pleased that the European Commission allocates an important role to Intervet in the protection against avian influenza. Our research could prove to be very valuable in the development of a method to quickly protect large numbers of birds. Avian influenza is a very important research subject for Intervet and this subsidy definitely brings an extra motivation”, said Danny Goovaerts, who is coordinating the project at Intervet.

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Note for the editor

Intervet, a business unit of Akzo Nobel, based in Boxmeer, the Netherlands, with sales of EUR 1,094 million in 2005, is dedicated to research and development, production and marketing of innovative animal health products. Intervet's product range for use in livestock, companion animals, poultry and fish includes vaccines, antiparasitics, anti-infectives, endocrine products and other pharmaceutical specialties. Intervet operates globally with its own marketing organizations. The company currently employs around 5,000 people.

Internet: www.intervet.com

Akzo Nobel is a Global Fortune 500 company and is listed on both the Euronext Amsterdam and NASDAQ stock exchanges. It is also included on the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes and FTSE4Good Index. Based in the Netherlands, we are a multicultural organization serving customers throughout the world with human and animal healthcare products, coatings, and chemicals. We employ more than 62,000 people and conduct our activities in four segments – human and animal health, coatings and chemicals – subdivided into 13 business units, with operating subsidiaries in more than 80 countries. Consolidated revenues for 2005 totaled EUR 13.0 billion. The financial results for the full year will be published on February 15, 2007.

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Not for publication – for more information

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