Call for Expressions of Interest (EoI)

Commercialization and technology transfer of Virus-Like-Particle (VLP) Polio Vaccine (PV-VLP)

The World Health Organization’s Polio Eradication Department (WHO/POL) is looking for Expressions of Interest from public-sector and private-sector vaccine manufacturers and other institutions interested in collaborating with WHO and research institutions collaborating with WHO in the further development and manufacture of an affordable poliovirus (PV) virus-like-particle (VLP) vaccine. PV VLPs do not contain poliovirus infectious material and can thus potentially be manufactured outside the containment restrictions imposed on institutions handling live poliovirus. One of the anticipated benefits is that it would especially enable production in developing country settings after technology transfer. Such a PV VLP vaccine could potentially replace inactivated poliovirus vaccines (IPV) derived from infectious viruses.

Since 2010, WHO has collaborated with a consortium of research institutions, led by the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, to develop PV VLP vaccine. This project has established proof of concept for the vaccine and has made significant progress in producing PV VLP in several recombinant expression systems. The goal of this project is to enable technology transfer to developing country manufacturers.

This Call for EoI, as an intermediate step towards the above-mentioned goal, seeks to identify institutions with relevant experience who can help optimize production and feasible commercial-scale manufacture of recombinant PV VLP vaccine from preferably yeast (or baculovirus or plant) technology platforms. The feedback received will allow WHO to perform a landscape analyses to gauge the global interest in participating in this project. There are no formal requirements for the Expression of Interest.

Following its review of responses received, WHO may (at its discretion) request interested entities to submit further information and documentation.

If your institution may be interested in participating, please respond by 31 July 2019

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SHOULD BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL AND COURIER MAIL TO:
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