

## **Alentia Biotech, a joint venture of Ferrer and ROVI, plans to construct a national production centre to supply the Spanish population with flu vaccines**

**The production plant to be built in Granada will have an annual production capacity of 10 million vaccines against seasonal flu and 30 million against pandemic flu.**

**This project is an example of a strategic collaboration between the public and private sectors to develop Spanish industry and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.**

**Granada, 26 September 2011** - Alentia Biotech, a joint venture in which Grupo Ferrer Internacional, S.A. and Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Rovi, S.A. will participate, as soon as the proceedings with the competition authorities are completed, plans to construct a manufacturing plant in Granada to produce flu vaccines in the Spanish market.

Today, the recently-created company has announced that it has signed an agreement with Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics for the transfer and granting of a licence of use for technology, belonging to the latter, for the production of vaccines against seasonal and pandemic flu mainly for Spain and Portugal.

The signature of the agreement was presided by the President of the Andalusian Government and the Minister of Health, Social Policy and Equality

Through these agreements, whose effectiveness is subject to the completion of the proceedings with the competition authorities with regard to the transaction between Ferrer and ROVI, Alentia Biotech will commence the construction of a production plant

in Granada (Spain) that will require an estimated investment of approximately 92 million euros to complete the operation.

The production plant will have an annual manufacturing capacity of 10 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine and 30 million doses of pandemic flu vaccine.

Likewise, during the construction of the production plant, Alentia Biotech will be entitled to market seasonal flu vaccines under a co-marketing regime with Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics for an estimated five-year period.

Once the production plant comes into operation, Alentia Biotech and Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics will market the vaccines manufactured at the plant through a commercial joint venture.

This strategic agreement falls within the spirit of the Protocol of Intent signed by ROVI on 30 June, 2009 with the Ministry of Health and Social Policy and the Andalusian Regional Government's Departments of Innovation, Science and Enterprises and of Health for research into new technologies and the production of seasonal and pandemic flu vaccines, which envisaged the construction of a national production centre for seasonal and pandemic flu vaccines to supply the entire Spanish population.

The project would be implemented with the collaboration of the Department of Economy, Innovation and Science of the Regional Government of Andalusia and the Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality of the Spanish Government and likewise has the backing of the Ministry of Science and Innovation.

### **About Ferrer**

Founded in 1959, Ferrer is a private Spanish pharmaceutical company, with vertical integration from R&D to distribution. It is present in more than 90 countries, with 23 international subsidiaries. It carries on its activity in the pharmaceutical, health, fine chemical and food sectors, key areas in which to contribute to an improvement in people's health and quality of life.

Since its creation, Ferrer has committed itself to boosting the research and development of innovative drugs at its six R&D centres (four of which are in Spain) and to attaining a sound industrial structure, with thirteen production centres (seven in Spain). This research and production capacity covers the pharmaceutical, diagnostic, vaccine, fine chemical, food additive and animal nutrition sectors.

Over the last few years, it has placed special emphasis on diversification, with a broad cover of the health spectrum, including molecular diagnostics, prescription drugs, hospital products, OTC and self health care. This trend is linked to the setting up and consolidation of strategic alliances.

Consequently, Ferrer enjoys a sustained positive evolution, as may be seen from the last eight years of solid growth.

The main therapeutic areas to which its pharmaceutical production refers are dermatology, the cardiovascular area, the SNC, oncology, the gastrointestinal area, analgesics, bone metabolism, antibiotics, the respiratory area, the immunological area, diagnostics, OTC and dermo-cosmetics. Additional information about Ferrer is available on the company's website: [www.ferrergrupo.com](http://www.ferrergrupo.com)

### **About ROVI**

ROVI is a fully integrated Spanish specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the research, development, in-licensing, manufacturing and marketing of small molecule and specialty biologic drugs. The Company has a diversified portfolio of products that it markets in Spain through its specialized sales force, calling on specialist physicians, hospitals and pharmacies. ROVI's portfolio of 27 principal marketed products is currently anchored by the internally-developed, second generation low molecular weight heparin, Bemiparin. ROVI's research and development pipeline is focused primarily on addressing currently unmet medical needs by developing new LMWH-based products and expanding applications for its existing LMWH-based products. ROVI manufactures the active biological ingredient (Bemiparin) for its principal proprietary products and for injectable pharmaceutical products developed by its in-house research team, and utilizes its state-of-the-art filling and packaging capabilities to provide a broad array of toll manufacturing services to leading international



pharmaceutical companies, primarily in the area of pre-filled syringes. Additional information about ROVI is available on the company's website: [www.rovi.es](http://www.rovi.es)