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## **ROVI signs a letter of intentions for the production of vaccines for seasonal and pandemic influenza**

**Madrid, 25 March 2010** - Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Rovi (ROVI) announces today that the company has signed a letter of intentions with Novartis Vaccines, with the aim of exploring a definitive agreement for the transfer of the patented technology of Novartis Vaccines needed for the production of vaccines against seasonal and pandemic influenza.

Novartis Vaccines produces vaccines for seasonal and pandemic flu using two of the most advanced technologies that are currently available for the production of vaccines for influenza: 1) traditional technology based on incubation in eggs and 2) technology based on cell culture. Both technologies are allowed to be used with the patented adjuvant technology. The technology to be transferred to ROVI would be selected after a deep analysis of reliability and costs in order to achieve the main aims of minimizing the risk of the project and complying with the established schedule.

According to the letter of intentions, ROVI and Novartis Vaccines would establish a joint venture that would market influenza vaccines in Spain.

The details of the commercial agreement between ROVI and Novartis Vaccines will be stated once the definitive contracts are closed.

This strategic alliance with Novartis Vaccines for the manufacturing and the marketing of influenza vaccines in Spain could result in a long term collaboration.

This letter of intentions comes within the framework of the protocol of intentions signed on 10 June 2009 by the Ministry of Health and Social Policy and by the Regional Ministries of

Innovation, Science and Enterprise, and Health of the Government of Andalusia for the research of new technologies and the production of flu vaccines. This programme includes the construction of a centre for the research and production of vaccines against seasonal and pandemic influenza, and is being implemented in order to supply all of the Spanish population with flu vaccines, all according to the regulatory filing 110699 released on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

In total, we estimate that this project could represent peak sales of vaccines for seasonal flu from 25 to 35 million euros, and the potential creation of about 100 jobs at the plant and in the sales structure required.

The Regional Ministries of Innovation, Science and Enterprise, and Health of the Government of Andalusia and ROVI will construct the centre for the research and production of vaccines in the Health Sciences Technology Park of Granada. According to the protocol of intentions signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 with the Ministry of Health and Social Policy and the Regional Ministries of Innovation, Science and Enterprise, and Health of the Government of Andalusia, the investment needed for the construction and start of operations of this plant is estimated at between 60 and 90 million euros. Assuming that a definitive agreement is reached with Novartis, the plant would have annual manufacturing capacity of 10 million doses of seasonal flu vaccines, and 30 million doses of vaccines for pandemic flu.

This project would be developed thanks to the commitment of ROVI in Andalusia, to the financial support, through subsidies, from the Regional Ministry of Innovation, Science and Enterprise and to the recognition and the contribution from the Ministry of Health and Social Policy of the Spanish Government.

Juan López-Belmonte Encina, the Chief Executive Officer of ROVI, said: "*The influenza vaccines business continues to be a key part of the strategy of ROVI, and we consider it to be one of the future growth drivers of the company. We are sure that to call on the extensive experience of Novartis Vaccines in the production of vaccines and on a very widely used and effective technology, combined with our know-how in this space, would help the project to succeed. The involvement of Novartis Vaccines in a long term cooperation project in the vaccines area gives us also the confidence to continue to be committed to this business. In addition, the absence of a vaccines plant in the Spanish territory creates a significant dependence of Spain on other countries. For this reason, we would like to again extend our thanks to the Ministry of Health and Social Policy and to the Regional Ministries of Innovation, Science and Enterprise, and Health of the Government of Andalusia, for their unconditional support and for their complete commitment to the vaccines project.*"

## **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)

## **Forward-Looking Statements**

This news release contains forward-looking statements. Such forward looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which might cause the actual results, financial condition, performance, or achievements of ROVI or industry results, to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward looking statements. The statements in this press release represent ROVI's expectations and beliefs as of the date of this press release. ROVI anticipates that subsequent events and developments may cause these expectations and beliefs to change. However, while ROVI may elect to update these forward-looking statements at some point in the future, it specifically disclaims any obligation to do so. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing ROVI's expectations or beliefs as of any date subsequent to the date of this press release.