

Serum Institute collaborates with Novavax for malaria vaccine

13 March 2020 | News

Novavax' proprietary Matrix-M vaccine adjuvant enhances immune response of malaria antigen developed at Jenner Institute at Oxford University



US based Novavax, Inc., a late-stage biotechnology company developing next-generation vaccines for serious infectious diseases, and Serum Institute of India (SII) have announced a commercial license agreement for the use of Novavax' proprietary Matrix-M™ vaccine adjuvant with SII's malaria vaccine candidate.

SII licensed the R21 malaria vaccine, which targets the most severe *plasmodium falciparum*-induced malaria disease, from the Jenner Institute at Oxford University in 2017. Matrix-M is a key component in the malaria vaccine candidate, currently in a Phase 2b clinical trial sponsored by the Jenner Institute, with top-line data expected to be reported in the second quarter of 2020.

Under the terms of the agreement, SII is granted rights to use Matrix-M in the vaccine in regions where the disease is endemic and will pay Novavax royalties on its market sales of the vaccine. Matrix-M will be manufactured and supplied to SII by Novavax AB, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Novavax based in Uppsala, Sweden.

In addition, as part of the arrangement, Novavax has gained the rights to sell and distribute the SII-manufactured vaccine in high-income countries, primarily in the travelers and military vaccine markets.