



MEDIA RELEASE

24 May 2004

PLASVACC SIGNS DEAL WITH CSL

Major supply agreement opens way to new human applications for growing Queensland biotech

www.plasvacc.com

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA: Australia's leading commercial supplier of blood plasma products for animals, Plasvacc, today announced it has signed an agreement with Australian company CSL Limited's [ASX: CSL] Pharmaceutical Division to provide horse plasma for CSL's work in producing snake anti-venom products for human and animal application.

The deal represents a major step forward for Plasvacc, one of Queensland's fastest-growing biotechnology companies, as it extends the company's animal plasma use from animal to human application - opening the way for major new product developments in the wider pharmaceutical market.

The agreement is also a first for Queensland as it is the first time CSL has outsourced the supply of a key raw material for antivenom production, in addition to its own Victorian-based facilities.

Plasvacc co-founder and Director, Mr Andrew Macarthur, said the deal is expected to bolster annual revenue, and positioned the company for a strong year ahead.

He said the company planned additional capital raising activity to fund further expansion.

"The directors have backed their judgment and business acumen and borrowed funds to grow and develop the business," Mr Macarthur said. "We see enormous potential to expand into untapped areas of the market both here and overseas, and look forward to taking our business plan to the market towards the middle of 2004," he said.

Based near Kalbar, South East Queensland, Plasvacc is an Australian-owned pharmaceutical company that produces high quality blood plasma products for animals such as horses, dogs, camels and alpacas.

Under the new deal, Plasvacc will supply CSL with horse plasma to act as the foundation material for the production of certain snake antivenom products.

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A natural product, blood plasma contains vital disease-preventing antibodies and clotting factors, and has received growing acceptance as an alternative to traditional antibiotics as a means of improving animal health.

The company's products have been developed by respected veterinarian and academic, Dr Ross Wilson, whose extensive career in plasma research and veterinary clinic management will be of major benefit to the research, product development and marketing efforts of the group.

The CSL Group of companies develops, manufactures and markets pharmaceutical products of biological origin, and has substantial manufacturing facilities in Europe, the USA and Australia.

Plasvacc Chief Scientific Officer, Dr Ross Wilson, said the deal with CSL accelerates Plasvacc's plans to enter the human pharmaceutical market.

"The team at Plasvacc is very proud to be working in partnership with one of Australia's largest and best respected pharmaceutical companies," Dr Wilson said. "The agreement is an important landmark for Plasvacc as we continue to develop our range of plasma products for both animal and human application."

Plasvacc has three existing Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) registered products on the market - EQUIPLAS for horses, CANIPLAS for dogs and CAMELPLAS for camels/alpacas. These markets are expanding rapidly. Over the next 12-18 months Plasvacc will fully commercialise four new products - EQUIPLAS E, EQUIPLAS R (both for horses), ROTAPLAS (for all species of domestic animal) and BOVIPLAS (for cattle).

A key benefit for the company is Australia's relatively disease free environment. Plasvacc has had detailed discussion with Austrade and several international organisations for the export of products overseas.

In 2002 the group purchased *Rigby*, a 200-hectare property on the Cunningham Highway near Kalbar, Queensland, which will house its new \$1.8 million state of the art laboratory and blood plasma collection facility. All blood plasma is collected from special donor herds of animals kept on the property.

Plasvacc plans to increase its workforce to up to 20 people as new products come on the market.

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For more information go to: www.plasvacc.com or contact:

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