



Novacta Therapeutics and UK Ministry of Defence Announce Collaboration to Discover Novel Antiviral Therapeutics

Novacta Therapeutics, the anti-infectives company spun out of the John Innes Centre by PBL, today announced that the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) will evaluate its proprietary lantibiotics as a broad spectrum antiviral treatment.

Novacta's lantibiotics have demonstrated potential as antibiotics in early preclinical studies. These naturally occurring compounds are also believed to have a unique and novel mechanism of interfering with the process of viral infection. Their mode of action involves the response of host cells to viral attack and they have the potential to block viral infection and proliferation at multiple targets. Using its proprietary lantibiotic engineering technology, Novacta intends to generate new compounds with improved activity against influenza and other viral targets. DSTL will conduct efficacy studies to measure the ability of Novacta's proprietary lantibiotics to treat or prevent [viral infections](#).

Tony Sedgwick, CEO of Novacta Therapeutics, said: "DSTL is internationally recognized for its ability to evaluate new therapeutic counter measures including broad spectrum antiviral agents. We are very excited to have a partner with such vast and relevant experience in this field, as it gives us a unique opportunity to fully evaluate our programme with a highly experienced team."

Notes for Editors:

About Novacta Therapeutics:

Novacta Therapeutics is the newly formed anti-infectives development arm of UK-based biotechnology company Novacta Biotech.

Novacta Therapeutics' lead programmes are centred around a novel class of small peptide molecules called lantibiotics, which have until now been underexploited due to the lack of adequate research tools. Novacta has three programmes based around first-in-class optimised lantibiotic variants. Its novel approach has been validated by the Wellcome Trust's strategic translational award for its lead programme in *C.difficile* associated infection.

Novacta Biotech's other arm, known as Novacta Biosystems, is focused on providing revenue generating services to industry customers. Novacta was established in 2003 and currently employs about 25 people at its premises in Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

For more information, please visit www.novactabio.com.

About PBL:

[PBL](#) is jointly and equally owned by the [John Innes Centre](#), the [Sainsbury Laboratory](#), and the [BBSRC](#) (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council). PBL develops innovative technologies from public and private sources worldwide - turning ideas into patented, scientifically validated and licensable technologies. PBL invests in building intellectual property protection, and develops technologies through proof-of-concept and prototype stage and licenses onwards to a wide variety of industry sectors. Its interests cover AgBiotech, Food / Nutrition, Microbiology, Biotechnology and related Life Science industries.

For more information, please visit www.pbltechnology.com.