



# InterAct

## Case Study: Vaccines

InterAct was established in 2005 as a unique partnership between four leading UK government research agencies: Central Science Laboratory (CSL); Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl); Health Protection Agency (HPA) and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). Funded by the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) under the PSRE Exploitation Fund Second Round the partnership was established to capture the synergies derived through combining the intellectual property, know-how and R&D services of these world class institutes.

In 2008 the partnership secured a further three years of funding and expanded to include two additional partners: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL).

Four of the partners (Cefas, Dstl, HPA and VLA) have a wide range of vaccine expertise that extends to the human, veterinary and aquaculture vaccine market sectors. This expertise is in the form of know-how, tangible intellectual property (e.g. patents) and facilities covering vaccine discovery, development, registration and production. In order to identify areas of synergy for exploitation InterAct has held a series of workshops involving key scientists from across the partnership with interests in the vaccine field. To date these workshops have focussed on vaccine delivery technologies (particularly microencapsulation) and general vaccine discovery methodologies. Additionally a dedicated workshop was held on tuberculosis (TB) vaccines – a key concern for both public and animal health in the UK.

A total of 8 potential commercialisation projects were identified as the initial output from the vaccine workshops. These opportunities were subsequently developed using InterAct's resources and to date have generated a range of successfully completed exploitation vehicles. Using its Proof of Concept Fund a number of further opportunities are being taken forward by InterAct and it is expected that these will generate additional exploitation vehicles in due course.

### **InterAct Vaccine Exploitation Vehicle examples:**

**Necrotic enteritis vaccine** – Dstl patents and know-how licensed to a major animal health company to develop a new vaccine for the control of necrotic enteritis in chickens.

**Brucella vaccine** – Dstl and VLA patented technologies are being co-developed using InterAct Proof of Concept Fund investment for a novel Brucella vaccine for cattle. The work is utilising the extensive animal disease models available at the VLA. The partners intend to then license the developed IP to an animal health vaccine company.

**Pig respiratory disease vaccine** – VLA has partnered with a major animal health vaccine company to develop improved combination vaccines for an important pig disease.

**Improved vaccine development services** - the InterAct Proof of Concept Fund has supported two separate projects at HPA to develop improved methodologies used in vaccine evaluation services with commercial companies. It is expected that these technologies will further enhance HPA's commercial service offering to vaccine companies leading to the generation of additional contracts and revenue.