



Success Stories



Researchers' Success Stories / August 2010

Towards a novel influenza vaccine

The project RepliXcel, coordinated by the Swiss company Medipol, develops a novel influenza vaccine that can be produced in far less time than traditional vaccines. RepliXcel shows that FP7 is not reserved for big companies only.

Medipol employs only seven people and yet its founder and managing director Carsten Laue decided to apply in 2009 for funding under FP7 and to coordinate such an ambitious project. Why not have a bigger institution with more resources coordinate the project? "As the coordinator, we can decide which way the project is going and advance our own technology. This is extremely valuable", says Carsten Laue.



Each partner brings in exactly the kind of expertise the project needs to accomplish its task. A side-effect of the small number of partners: it facilitates the coordination, so that also a small organization can act as a coordinator. It is also helpful that the partners had known each other before the project started. Medipol already knew the two academic partners, and one of the academic partners

knew and brought in the missing industry

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Few partners, but the right ones

RepliXcel involves four partners: Medipol (CH), Institute of Virology and Immunoprophylaxis IVI (CH), University of Manchester (UK), EMC microcollections GmbH (D).

partner. Being a coordinator is not what Carsten Laue wants to be for the rest of his

ABOUT THE PROJECT

RepliXcel aims at developing a novel influenza vaccine whose production will only take 4 weeks – compared to 14 weeks which the production of traditional vaccines takes. Producing vaccines faster is particularly important when a pandemic is impending, because more vaccine has to be produced on short notice.

Traditional vaccines are produced by using cell cultures or eggs. The speed of this production has its natural limits. Production of RepliXcel's vaccine will be faster because it is completely synthetic.

The goal of the project is to develop the vaccine far enough to be tested with human subjects.

life, though: "I'd rather let my collaborators do the coordinating tasks in the future; however, like this I can make valuable experiences and share them with others".

Making investors happy

RepliXcel receives around 2.6 million Euro from the European Commission. And this is only part of the revenue. "This project helped us a lot finding new investors, as it gave us additional visibility, also on the financial market", says Carsten Laue.

One of the first steps towards such success is selecting the right funding opportunity. "We decided to apply for the Marie Curie Action Project mainly because it allows industry partners to lead the project", says Carsten Laue. "And particularly because we did this for the first time, we immensely appreciated the help of Euresearch with preparing the proposal".

FACTS AND FIGURES

Project Name:	RepliXcel – Highly efficient new generation synthetic RNA-replicon based vaccine
Project Website	www.replixcel.com
Research Area:	FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IAPP
Coordinating Institution	Medipol SA / www.medipol.ch
Coordinator:	Dr. Carsten Laue
Number of Partners:	4
Start Date - End Date	2010/04/01 - 2014/03/31
Duration	48 months
Project Cost:	2.59 million Euro
Project Funding:	2.59 million Euro
Contract type:	FP7 People - Marie Curie (IAPP)
FP7 Reference Number:	251420

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