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CANGENE CORPORATION AWARDED U.S. CONTRACT



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Dubbed one of Canada's largest and most profitable biotechnology companies, Cangene Corporation, with headquarters in Winnipeg, MB and a facility in Baltimore, Maryland, uses patented manufacturing processes to produce plasma-derived and recombinant therapeutic proteins. Currently, the company holds two approved products and a clinical trial program that includes two other products nearing completion of Phase III clinical trials and has been submitted for Food and Drug Administration review. Chesapeake Biological Laboratories Inc., a Baltimore-based subsidiary of Cangene, has contributed to Cangene's growth in commercial manufacturing and clinical products. Cangene is a leader in developing hyperimmunes in the area of infectious diseases.

Cangene was recently awarded a five-year contract by the United States Centres for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC) for the development of a maximum of 100,000 doses of Vaccinia immune globulin (VIG) to treat and prevent adverse reactions to the smallpox vaccine. Similar to the production of Cangene's most important therapeutic product,

WinRho, specific antibodies from the plasma of individuals recently inoculated with the smallpox vaccine are isolated to make VIG. Development and production of the therapeutic hyperimmune will be done at one of Cangene's Winnipeg facilities.

The new contract helps Cangene become more involved in counteracting bio-warfare and bio-terrorism, as well as provides for another product that can be sold internationally. Last year, following Sept. 11 and the discovery that the world's supply of the smallpox vaccine was limited, Cangene's Baltimore facility was awarded a contract for final filling and finishing of 155 million newly commissioned doses of smallpox vaccine produced by Acambis Inc. and Baxter BioSciences.

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