

## **Avecia Biologics passes 2m hours without Lost Time Accident**

**Tees Valley, UK, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008** : Leading biotechnology company Avecia Biologics has passed a major health and safety milestone by achieving two million man hours without a Lost Time Accident.

The Tees Valley based company has grown rapidly since its formation in 1999, with a record of technical and functional excellence and innovation with a dedicated team focus. This recent achievement is a testimony to their efforts in ensuring this has been done without serious injury to its employees.

The effective initiatives prompting this achievement involve everyone within the organisation from senior management to entry level new starters. They include near-miss reporting, recognition for acting on health and safety issues and a series of 'SHE Awareness Days' promoting Safety, Health and the Environment.

Health and Safety has long been a focus of Avecia with emphasis increasing as a result of large numbers of new employees in the last couple of years. All employees now take part in a 'Deal with It' training course to emphasise the importance of health and safety, and action has been taken to raise awareness further, including the introduction of local 'SHE Advocates' to encourage best practice.

Subhash Chaudhary, site director at Avecia responsible for SHE, said: "With work taking place on up to 15 different protein-based therapeutics at any one time, all time is valuable, so the achievement of passing the 2 million man hour mark without any accidents is extremely important to both us and our clients. We look forward to building on this and achieving three million hours in a few months time".

Dedication to employees and customer service continues to give Avecia the opportunity to grow and offer customers the highest standard of development.

**ENDS**

**About Avecia**

*Avecia is a privately owned biotechnology group of companies with recognised leading positions in the process development and manufacture of biopharmaceutical and oligonucleotide medicines. It is also a leading developer of bio-defence vaccines. The Group's Tees Valley, UK site has been developing processes and making protein-based biologics to cGMP since 1998. Products currently being worked on include medicines targeted at forms of cancer, heart conditions, stroke, growth and blood disorders. Customers range from some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies to small innovative biotech start-up businesses.*

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