

Avecia adds Formulation Studies to its portfolio of services

Tees Valley, 9th June 2008 : Avecia Biologics has announced that it has created a new Formulation Development capability based at its Tees Valley, UK laboratories to improve its service offering to customers. Using Avecia's knowledge and experience built up over the past 10 years of biologics development work, the new unit will bring together biochemical, bioanalytical and biophysical techniques.

Formulation studies are fundamental to ensuring a stable and effective product. The complex nature of most biological molecules including properties such as aggregation and stability, makes the development and implementation of a structured and carefully designed programme essential. This must be done early in the development life of a product to gain maximum benefit from clinical studies and avoid late-stage changes in formulation or a product that fails to deliver its expected effect. Such failures can fundamentally undermine the success of early-stage biotechnology companies

The company says the new capability will offer real time, cost and technical advantages for its customers:

- The process development and analytical team will quickly build an un-paralleled knowledge of the behaviour of the target biologic – knowledge that is invaluable in implementing and customising a formulation development programme.
- By incorporating formulation studies directly into the Avecia process development programme, aligning both in parallel in a highly iterative process, the overall development timeline through to the clinic can be minimised.
- The close link between process and formulation ensures the impact of inevitable process changes on potential formulations, can be understood and quickly addressed.

Dr Stephen Taylor, Business Director, says “we hope and expect that this new service in formulation studies will offer additional value to our customers, particularly those at an early stage of clinical development”.

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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. The Group's Tees Valley, UK site has been developing microbial 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. www.avecia.com

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