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## **DEFENCE REPORTS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF CERVICAL CANCER GROWTH IN RESPONSE TO ITS ACCUVAC-PT007 THERAPEUTIC VACCINATION**

**Vancouver, BC, Canada, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022** - Defence Therapeutics Inc. (“**Defence**” or the “**Company**”), a Canadian biopharmaceutical company specialized in the development of immunoncology vaccines and drug delivery technologies, is pleased to report potent pre-clinical results on the use of its Accum<sup>TM</sup>-linked protein vaccine, AccuVAC-PT007, against cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is a type of cancer affecting the cervix. Various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a major role in causing cervical cancer. When exposed to HPV, epithelial cells of the cervix undergo a series of transformation events eventually leading to tumor development. Although the risk of developing cervical cancer can be significantly reduced by performing regular screening tests, receiving anti-HPV vaccines such as Gardasil, Gardasil-9 or Cervarix, remain currently the most effective strategy to prevent from cervical cancer caused by HPV 16 and 18. However, there is currently no cure besides standard of care for patients who develop cervical cancer, and the clinical trials conducted with other companies with both the E6 and E7 oncoproteins (derived from the HPV genome) were highly unsuccessful.

Using the Accum<sup>TM</sup> platform, Defence developed the AccuVAC-PT007, a protein-based vaccine targeting the E7 oncoprotein of the HPV virus. AccuVAC-PT007 was previously shown to provide complete protection against cervical cancer (prophylactic vaccination) as shown in our press release dated on May 18, 2022. These ground-breaking observations led to the testing of AccuVAC-PT007 as a treatment with pre-established cervical cancer (therapeutic vaccination). Pre-clinical studies conducted on rodents show that the co-delivery of AccuVAC-PT007 with several immune-checkpoint blockers (anti-PD-1, anti-CTLA4 or anti-CD47) lead to potent control of tumor growth with a more pronounced effect observed with anti-CD47, one of the latest immune-checkpoint blockers undergoing clinical development.

"Currently available HPV vaccines serve one purpose: protection from the HPV virus. Our vaccine is not only simpler to manufacture as it is based on a single protein, but its dual action makes it

highly attractive as it can both protect from- and treat the same tumor type", says Mr. Sebastien Plouffe, the CEO of Defence Therapeutics.

Specifically, the cervical cancer therapeutics market size is expected to reach \$7.1 billion by 2027 according to Arizton Advisory and Intelligence. And further more since the cervical cancer is derived from HPV "human papillomavirus vaccine", this market is anticipated to generate a revenue of \$10,823 million and grow at a healthy CAGR of 12.4% over the forecast period from 2022 to 2030 according to Research Dive.

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2022/06/23/2468502/0/en/Cervical-Cancer-Therapeutics-Market-to-Reach-7-1-Billion-by-2027-Keytruda-and-Tivdak-are-Emerging-as-the-Most-Clinically-and-Commercially-Attractive-Regimens-Arizton.html>

<https://www.prnewswire.co.uk/news-releases/global-human-papillomavirus-vaccine-market-anticipated-to-generate-a-revenue-of-10-823-00-million-and-grow-at-a-healthy-cagr-of-12-4-over-the-forecast-period-from-2022-to-2030-230-pages-research-dive-834182836.html>

### **About Defence:**

Defence Therapeutics is a publicly-traded biotechnology company working on engineering the next generation vaccines and ADC products using its proprietary platform. The core of Defence Therapeutics platform is the ACCUM™ technology, which enables precision delivery of vaccine antigens or ADCs in their intact form to target cells. As a result, increased efficacy and potency can be reached against catastrophic illness such as cancer and infectious diseases.

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This release includes certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements". All statements in this release, other than statements of historical facts, that address events or developments that the Company expects to occur, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and are generally, but not always, identified by the words "expects", "plans", "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "projects", "potential" and similar expressions, or that events or conditions "will", "would", "may", "could" or "should" occur. Although the Company believes the expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, such statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include regulatory actions, market prices, and continued availability of capital and financing, and general economic, market or business conditions. Investors are cautioned that any such statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on the beliefs, estimates and opinions of the Company's management on the date the statements are made. Except as required by applicable securities laws, the Company undertakes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements in the event that management's beliefs, estimates or opinions, or other factors, should change.

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