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mRNA WITH DEFENCE'S ACCUM™ PROGRAM HAS BEEN INITIATED

Vancouver, BC, Canada, January 10th, 2023 - Defence Therapeutics Inc. (“**Defence**” or the “**Company**”), a Canadian biopharmaceutical company specialized in the development of immune-oncology vaccines and drug delivery technologies, is pleased to announce the advancement in the development of its Accum™ -mRNA vaccine program. This R&D program will not only impact the field of cancer immunotherapy, but it can also be directly applied to the development of new vaccines targeting infectious diseases.

The mRNA vaccination approach offers tremendous advantages over the use of peptide- or protein-based vaccines. mRNA like any other biomolecule, is extremely sensitive to harsh conditions such as high acidity and enzymatic reactions, which would directly impede their therapeutic potency. In addition, mRNA molecules need to reach the cytoplasm where they can be efficiently translated into full proteins, this is where Accum™ may add stability and potency.

Defence is working with a private European company to synthesize mRNA vaccine coupled with its Accum™. Defence's has now completed the first phase of its Accum™-mRNA vaccine development by achieving the synthesis and the Quality Control of the amino-modified polyA tail Ova mRNA. Defence is advancing on the second step, which consists of coupling Accum™ variants to amino-modified mRNA as well as testing and analyzing: i) the effect of Accum™ and linkers on mRNA stability, ii) the linker coupling onto amino-modified mRNA, iii) the Accum™ coupling onto linker-amino modified mRNA, and finally iv) the purification and analysis of the Accum™-linker-amino-modified mRNA.

The third and final step of this Accum-mRNA vaccine development, scheduled at the end of January 2023, will be the production of a small vaccine batch to conduct *in vivo* studies in animals as a head-to-head comparison between Accum™-linked and "naked" mRNA vaccines for their potential to generate an immune response capable of eradicating and controlling established tumors.

“The development of our Accum™-mRNA vaccine is on track, our *in vivo* study on animals with pre-established solid tumors is planned for this quarter with the objective to demonstrate that Accum™ can significantly enhance the therapeutic potency of a given mRNA vaccine”, says Mr. Plouffe, CEO of Defence Therapeutics.

The mRNA therapeutics market size is projected to surpass around USD 128.14 billion by 2030 and growing at a registered CAGR of 13.03% from 2022 to 2030 according to Precedence Research.

<https://www.precedenceresearch.com/mrna-therapeutics-market#:~:text=The%20mRNA%20therapeutics%20market%20size,forecast%20period%202022%20to%202030.>

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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