



Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn and Prime Minister Reiner Haseloff visit IDT Biologika

Dessau-based company to now fill AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine - Merz Pharma is foregoing capacities at short notice

Dessau, Germany, April 16, 2021

German Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn and the Prime Minister of the German State of Saxony-Anhalt Reiner Haseloff visited IDT Biologika today to find out about the latest advances in the production of COVID-19 vaccines. One reason for the visit was the laying of the foundation stone for a new production building last week. The AstraZeneca active ingredient is to be manufactured there from the beginning of 2023, among other products, as part of a planned strategic cooperation.

On this occasion, the Dessau-based company announced that it will now also bottle AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine at short notice. To make this possible, customer Merz Pharma will release capacity that has already been booked for three months in the course of the second quarter. A volume of at least ten million vaccine doses is planned.

On March 15, IDT Biologika, Johnson & Johnson and Japanese company Takeda had already announced that Takeda would forego previously booked capacity in favor of filling the American J&J COVID-19 vaccine for the next three months. IDT shipped the first vaccine doses from this collaboration to the client this week.

In parallel, the Dessau-based company is working with the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) to develop its own COVID vaccine. After a delay due to a protective effect still below expectations, this project will now enter clinical phase II in May.

Federal Health Minister Jens Spahn said: "Vector vaccines will continue to play an important role in the federal government's vaccination strategy. IDT's cooperation with several vaccine manufacturers helps. The more vaccines are manufactured and bottled in Germany and Europe, the better we can protect the population. "

"The State of Saxony-Anhalt has accompanied and promoted the corporate development at IDT Biologika for many years," said Prime Minister Reiner Haseloff. "IDT is one of the leading companies in vaccine production and research. A chapter of the success story of Aufbau Ost (Development of Eastern Germany) is being written here. I am particularly pleased that with IDT from Saxony-Anhalt we can make a contribution in the fight against Corona."

IDT's CEO Jürgen Betzing added: "We are pleased and quite proud that our company can now contribute to the acute and prospective supply of vaccines on three levels in the context of the pandemic. We are keeping a promise that we made at the vaccination summit on February 1st: to provide production capacities at short notice through creative and intelligent solutions. My thanks go to our long-standing customers Merz and Takeda, without whose support this success would not have been possible."

[Download](#) Press picture of event; press pictures and b-roll of production at IDT

About IDT Biologika

IDT Biologika – an innovative biotech company with a successful history dating back nearly 100 years. On the basis of modern technologies and high levels of expertise we support customers in the development and manufacture of innovative virus vaccines, gene and immune therapy products as well as biologics employed worldwide as protection against diseases.

German sites are the BioPharmaPark in Dessau-Roßlau and Magdeburg. In the US the IDT Corporation has a manufacturing site for clinical test samples in Rockville, Maryland.

IDT Biologika is a company of the Klocke Group. This specializes in the contract manufacture and packaging of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and cosmetic products. As a traditional, family-run company, the Klocke Group employs over 2,000 people at six production sites worldwide.

Further information can be found on the website of IDT Biologika at www.idt-biologika.com.

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