



Univercells launches cell & gene therapy contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) Exothera with GMP capabilities in 15,000m² site in Jumet, Belgium

Exothera will partner with cell & gene therapy innovators to unlock their manufacturing potential by capitalizing on best-in-class manufacturing technologies and bioprocessing expertise.

Brussels, Belgium – March 19, 2020 – Univercells has launched a contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO), Exothera, to support cell and gene therapy developers with process development and production of viral vectors. The company has been created to help alleviate the two most critical challenges manufacturers face in bringing these vital therapies to market: a structural lack of capacity and scarcity of bioprocessing expertise.

Exothera is uniquely positioned to create bespoke bioproduction support programs for manufacturers to achieve successful market entry. The team combines complex applied bioprocessing experience with best-in-class technologies. Parent company Univercells' novel manufacturing platforms will be leveraged among others, to design high-quality, cost-effective viral vector processes with the option of implementing sustainable commercial facilities at the customer site if desired. By taking a holistic approach to rapidly deliver scalable bioproduction processes, the CDMO will help cell and gene therapy innovators accelerate the delivery of these groundbreaking therapies with drastic reductions in time to market and cost.

Following initial activities in the established Gosselies and Nivelles, Belgium facility, Exothera's capabilities will be housed at a 15,000 m² site in Jumet, Belgium, recently acquired by Univercells. The existing infrastructure of the Jumet site will be revamped to accommodate state-of-the-art laboratories, cleanrooms, and GMP qualified manufacturing areas for clinical and commercial production. Capacity ramp-up will rapidly foster local employment, with an extensive hiring effort to appoint PhD scientists, manufacturing experts and laboratories technicians.

The flexible GMP areas at Jumet will contain Exothera's CDMO activities and ongoing Univercells vaccine development and manufacturing initiatives, with capacity for rapid response programs. On the rapid response front, the company is currently pursuing support opportunities for COVID-19 vaccine innovators, drawing on vast capability and know-how in expediting successful vaccine manufacturing programs.

"This new focus will enable our team to leverage expertise with innovation to overcome the industry's production constraints and foster the success of cell and gene therapies", declares Hugues Bultot, CEO of Univercells and Exothera. "We strongly believe that Exothera will make a difference in the manufacturing of these advanced and critically needed therapies, ultimately unlocking their potential to improve patients' lives."

●●● About Univercells ●●●

Univercells is an innovative bioprocessing provider focused on increasing the availability of affordable biologics. Capitalizing on unmatched bioprocessing and engineering expertise, the company is offering leading-edge manufacturing solutions to alleviate the industry's current shortfall in supply of cell and gene therapies, vaccines and biotherapeutics. Univercells is dedicated to deliver technologies, services and turnkey solutions to accompany industry experts unlock and expedite critically needed therapies.

A global company headquartered in Gosselies, Belgium, Univercells benefits from the support regional and national players as well as from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Global Health Investment Fund (GHIF), European Investment Bank (EIB) and other international players in the health industry.

www.univercells.com

●●● About Exothera ●●●

Exothera is a uniquely positioned contract manufacturing and development organization (CDMO) that partners with cell and gene therapy innovators. As a Univercells company, Exothera capitalizes on novel manufacturing technologies and best-in-class bioprocessing expertise to deliver bespoke process development and GMP clinical and commercial production of viral vectors. Our experienced team is dedicated to delivering the best approach to accelerate and find success in your bioproduction journey, offering the option to seamlessly deploy your commercial facility.

www.exothera.world

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