

# PRESS RELEASE

Saint-Contest, 21 Octobre 2020



## ANIMALimmune company

### Attractiveness of the Normandy Equine Valley platform in Saint-Contest: The start-up Animal Immune Company joins the research campus

On 9th October 2020 the official launch of Animal Immune Company (AIC) took place, in the presence of the Normandy Region, the Department of Calvados, Biotargen-UniCaen, LABEO, the Hippolia Cluster and the start-ups already present on the Normandy Equine Valley site, at Saint-Contest (14). The platform's teams had the pleasure of welcoming this new start-up on 9 July for its installation. This start-up is the third to join the platform after the arrival of Equiways and Équibiogènes in 2019.



*Luc ROZETTE and Nicolas GRUET and Jörn STEIGER- Anima/ Immune Company leaders*

#### **AIC: FRANCO-GERMAN KNOW-HOW AT THE SERVICE OF EQUINE WELL-BEING**

Animal Immune Company (AIC) is a French-German company under French law dedicated to animal well-being, which offers, among other things, veterinarians and horse owners the possibility of treating certain chronic diseases, such as asthma and osteoarthritis, using autologous cytokines produced in its Saint-Contest laboratory from white cells in the blood of the animal being treated.

AIC benefits from a technical know-how which has been developed and implemented in human medicine by one of the associated companies (Ad Lentus) based in Germany. The AIC laboratory is located within the French epicenter of horse activities, "Normandy Equine Valley" platform, which relies also on the Gis Centaure, a scientific cluster internationally recognised in the world of horses.

## IMMUNOTHERAPY AS A FIELD OF ACTION

The A.I.C. laboratory, specialised in immuno-therapeutic treatment, develops from the leukocytes of a candidate horse, a cocktail of cytokines which will modulate the immune response of this same horse as precisely as possible and restore the inflammatory balance to a normal level, and in certain cases act as a restorative medicine. The precise mechanisms of action of the cytokines are still little known but their therapeutic applications are convincing and full of hope.

Luc ROZETTE, Veterinarian and President of AIC defines AIC's mission in these terms: *"Our vision is that it is right to give our animals the benefit of the latest therapeutic advances. Animals are involved in the testing of new biological therapies that save lives. It seems right to us that in return they can benefit from the prodigious efforts of human medicine. Our mission is to promote immunotherapy, sometimes called biological therapy in the animal world. Restoring the immune system of our horses to the ability to modulate inflammations that are harmful to the body and help them fight against pathogenic elements. This makes it possible to work for the well-being of our equine partners while prolonging their sporting careers. »*

Immunotherapy helps to strengthen or restore the capacity of the immune system to fight the horse's pathologies. A.I.C.'s mission is to make this innovative and unique immunotherapy available to as many people as possible in order to effectively relieve the most frequent chronic pathologies in sport horses without contravening the legislation on doping.

Nicolas GRUET, Deputy Director General in charge of the adoption of this treatment by the community of veterinarians, underlines *"The widespread implementation of these therapies for the benefit of animals requires the organisation of a collaborative virtuous cycle involving veterinarians, laboratories and the owners of these animals. It is this collective intelligence that we have found in Normandy"*.

Jörn STEIGER, Managing Director in charge of Production is also the CEO of Ad Lentus, the parent company that owns the intellectual property of the treatment and its production for human medicine. He is also the Qualified Person (QP) of other pharmaceutical companies in their GMP/GMP processes. Within AIC, he ensures that the production of the laboratory hosted by Normandie Équine Vallée follows the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) of medicines.

*"The Normandy Equine Valley Joint Association is delighted with the arrival of this new company at its Saint-Contest site. This new site is proof that the gamble taken by the local authorities, Region and Department, alongside LABEO and the University of Caen Normandie, is now paying off: collaboration between research organisations and companies is a factor in innovation and value creation. The platform's success has also led local authorities to invest in an extension that will double the surface area and accommodate other companies by 2022. "*

**Alexia Lemoine, Director of Normandie Équine Vallée**

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