

First Innovative Medicines Initiative Ebola projects launched

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The first eight projects on Ebola, selected from proposals submitted in the framework of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) first Ebola+ programme Call for proposals [1], are being launched. The projects aim to accelerate all aspects of Ebola vaccine development and manufacturing as well as deployment and compliance with vaccine regimens and diagnostics.

With a total budget of € 215 million, the eight projects cover the following fields: (i) development of Ebola vaccines, (ii) the scaling up of vaccine manufacture, (iii) compliance with vaccine regimens, and (iv) the development of rapid diagnostic tests.

The IMI Ebola+ programme was created in response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in western Africa. The projects bring together partners from the pharmaceutical and diagnostics industries, public health bodies, academia, aid organisations, and small biotech companies in Europe, Africa and the United States. Previous experience at IMI has shown that consortia of this kind, which bring together diverse groups from different parts of the world, can make progress in even very challenging disease areas.

Further Calls for proposals are planned for the coming months. These could address issues such as the development of a vaccine that offers broad protection against both Ebola and other, related viruses such as Marburg.

The budget is partly funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 programme [2], and partly in the form of in-kind contributions from the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations.

For more information, see:

<http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/ebola-programme>

References

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2. European Commission. HORIZON 2020. The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Available from: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>