

## Press Release

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### EFPIA and Innovative Medicines Initiative Announce Programme to Help Respond to Ebola Crisis

(6 November 2014 - Brussels): EFPIA, its specialised group Vaccines Europe, and the Innovative Medicines Initiative are pleased to announce the launch of a €280 million Call for proposals for an Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) programme aimed to address the current Ebola crisis. The Ebola+ programme will bring together the pharmaceutical industry and researchers in a collaborative programme aimed to cover the current outbreak, as well as future needs in the space of haemorrhagic fevers.

The first Call for proposals has a global budget of about €280 million and will result in projects aimed to address the development, manufacture, transport, and storage of vaccines; ensuring compliance with vaccine regimens; and the development of rapid diagnostic tests. Further Calls for proposals will be launched in the coming months. The first projects are expected to begin in early 2015.

Richard Bergstrom, Director General EFPIA, stated: "Stopping the spread of Ebola, now and for future generations, is a key priority for the pharmaceutical industry, which has a long history in fighting pervasive infectious disease. The current Ebola outbreak in West Africa brings with it unprecedented challenges for patients and the healthcare system. This complex fight requires close collaboration and engagement from multiple stakeholders. The pharmaceutical industry, represented by EFPIA, recognises its responsibility and value and is ready to play a vital role."

The European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas said: "The EU is determined to help find a solution to Ebola. We are putting our money where our mouth is and boosting EU research on Ebola with an additional €280 million. With this funding from Horizon 2020 and our industry partners, we are stepping up the development of new vaccines and medications to help save lives around the world."

Michel Goldman, IMI Executive Director commented: "Today's launch of IMI's Ebola+ programme exemplifies IMI's firm commitment to addressing major health challenges where there is an unmet medical need and where the impact on public health is high. I am confident that by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders in collaborative projects, IMI will make a tangible contribution to global efforts to tackle this terrible disease."

EFPIA and the Innovative Medicines Initiative look forward to joining forces across the industry and with other parties to contribute to the global effort against this deadly illness, and progress research in this area of unmet medical need.

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## Notes to Editors:

For more information on the first Call for proposals on the Ebola programme, visit

<http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/imi-2-call-2-0>

- **Deadline** for submitting proposals: **1 December 2014**
- Webinars on the Call topics and procedures will be held at 14:00 on Wednesday 12 November and Monday 17 November.  
To register, visit: <http://www.imi.europa.eu/events/2014/11/02/ebola-webinars-2014>

## About Ebola and related diseases

Ebola virus disease (EVD), previously known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains. The virus spreads in the human population through direct human-to-human contact with the bodily fluids of infected patients who are showing symptoms. It has an incubation period of 2-21 days, and it usually begins with flu-like symptoms, but rapidly progresses to multiple organ failure and blood-clotting abnormalities which manifest as internal and external haemorrhages (bleeding). It is fatal in between 25% and 90% of cases. There is currently no licensed treatment against EVD, and the development of treatments and preventive measures such as vaccines is hampered by challenges including manufacturing-related hurdles, the stability of vaccines during transport and storage, vaccine deployment, and the time taken to diagnose cases of EVD.

Ebola is a member of the filovirus family of viruses, which also includes Marburg virus. Like Ebola, Marburg causes severe, often fatal haemorrhagic fever in humans and other primates (monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees), and like Ebola, it is transmitted directly from one person to another. (In contrast, other viruses that cause haemorrhagic fevers are spread via intermediate hosts - for example, dengue fever is transmitted by mosquitoes.) There is no specific treatment or vaccine against Marburg haemorrhagic fever.

WHO factsheet on Ebola: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/>

WHO statistics on the current outbreak: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/>

WHO factsheet on Marburg haemorrhagic fever:

[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs\\_marburg/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs_marburg/en/)

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## About EFPIA

EFPIA represents the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe. Through its direct membership of 33 national associations and 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, EFPIA provides the voice of 1,900 companies committed to researching, developing and bringing new medicines to improve health and quality of life around the world. The pharmaceutical industry invests €30.6 billion on research and development per year in Europe and directly employs 690,000 people including 115,000 in R&D units in Europe.

EFPIA members are committed to delivering innovative medicines to address unmet needs of patients and reducing the burden of chronic diseases for Europe's ageing population. EFPIA believes in close cooperation with its stakeholders to help create sustainable healthcare systems and to develop prompt responses to health threats in Europe.

- More info on EFPIA: [www.efpia.eu](http://www.efpia.eu)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@EFPIA](https://twitter.com/EFPIA)

## About Vaccines Europe

Vaccines Europe is the specialised vaccine group operating within the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and represents innovative research-based vaccine companies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises operating in Europe.

- More info on Vaccines Europe: [www.vaccineseurope.eu](http://www.vaccineseurope.eu)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@VaccinesEurope](https://twitter.com/VaccinesEurope)

## About IMI

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is working to improve health by speeding up the development of, and patient access to, innovative medicines, particularly in areas where there is an unmet medical or social need. It does this by facilitating collaboration between the key players involved in healthcare research, including universities, the pharmaceutical and other industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), patient organisations, and medicines regulators.

IMI is a partnership between the European Union and the European pharmaceutical industry, represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). IMI has a budget of €3.3 billion for the period 2014-2024. Half of this comes from the EU's research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. The other half comes from large companies, mostly from the pharmaceutical sector; these do not receive any EU funding, but contribute to the projects 'in kind', for example by donating their researchers' time or providing access to research facilities or resources.

- More info on IMI: [www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@IMI\\_JU](https://twitter.com/IMI_JU)

## About Horizon 2020

On 1 January 2014, the European Union launched a new, seven year research and innovation funding programme called Horizon 2020. Over the next seven years almost €80 billion will be invested in research and innovation projects to support Europe's economic competitiveness and extend the frontiers of human knowledge. The EU research budget is focused mainly in improving everyday life in areas like health, the environment, transport, food and energy. Research partnerships with the pharmaceutical, aerospace, car and electronics industries also encourage private sector investment in support of future growth and high skill job creation. Horizon 2020 will have an even greater focus on turning excellent ideas into marketable products, processes and services.

- Horizon 2020 website: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>
- Factsheet on EU response to Ebola: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-14-599\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-599_en.htm)
- Ebola coordination site: [http://europa.eu/newsroom/highlights/special-coverage/ebola/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/newsroom/highlights/special-coverage/ebola/index_en.htm)