



# Smallpox Vaccine Development Agreement

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*MDM Group, Inc. advises that its Biodefense Division has entered into agreement with AvaxisBio for the development of a smallpox vaccine*

PR9.NET August 09, 2005 - Smallpox is a top priority on the bioterrorism threat list. Since routine vaccinations stopped in 1980 and vaccination offers immunity for only seven to ten years, the world is in effect a virgin population, highly susceptible to reintroduction of the virus. Although the official repositories of the virus are maintained under high security in the United States and Russia, there is concern that terrorists may have access to certain smallpox virus and could use it as a weapon. If this happened, a large percentage of the population could become seriously ill as smallpox is highly contagious and virulent. As many as 30% of those infected could die as there is no known cure -- and if the hemorrhagic or flat smallpox variants were to be used the death rates would be much higher, 95-99%.

Currently available smallpox vaccines use modified live Vaccinia virus that are costly and time intensive in their application. As an indication, to vaccinate just a million people per day, using current methods and immunization process, would require about 35,000 medical teams as well as the infrastructure to support the initiative. Further, current vaccines are also not considered safe for use in certain segments of the population, especially those with skin diseases, immune disorders, HIV, and pregnant or lactating mothers. In addition, the FDA requires a "Black Box" (serious danger) warning on a large proportion of the currently available doses of smallpox vaccine due to concerns about occurrence of heart toxicity called acute myopericarditis in healthy individuals.

For smallpox vaccine to be available to the entire population in the event of an outbreak, MDM Group and AvaxisBio are targeting a greatly improved product and vaccination process. Both are clearly needed should such a threat materialize.

AvaxisBio Corporation was incorporated in the state of Delaware on November 8, 2004. Based on the Business Plan developed by Dr. Amir Maksyutov, senior technical director and inventor in cooperation with the US Department of State BII program (BioIndustry Initiative), AvaxisBio has attracted significant potential investment interest in the company. AvaxisBio is focused on commercializing the Maksyutov Antigenic Peptide technology platform, a method for designing vaccines that takes into account the genetic variability of pathogens that cause AIDS, Hepatitis C, and Influenza. BII enabled the commercialization of this platform through a strategic PCT (Patent Convention Treaty) filing after the early-stage discovery work was funded by BTEP (Biotechnology Engagement Program).

MDM Vice President, Ed Stephen, has indicated that the new vaccine is expected to be safe in all population segments as well as be effective against all strains of pox viruses by the nature of the component selection process that is proprietary to AvaxisBio.

Under the terms of the AvaxisBio agreement, MDM Group will fund certain ongoing expenses during a due diligence period, after which MDM will acquire a 50% interest in a joint company that will be newly-formed for the purpose of developing and testing smallpox vaccines, in exchange for \$0.5 million of initial seed capital and other non-monetary contributions to support on-going research activities.

## Safe Harbor Statement

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Source: MDM Group, Inc

For further information see: <http://www.mdmgrouppinc.com>

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## About MDM Group Inc

MDM Group's business interests are focused on the Security, Biodefense and Homeland Security industries.

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