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PRESS RELEASE

FIGHTING COVID-19 - VIRUS TESTING

Bertin Technologies, C4Diagnostics and Enalees launch BEC-SARS-CoV-2, an ultra-rapid and sensitive Covid-19 detection kit

The three partners pooled their expertise to develop a high-sensitivity test detecting the SARS-CoV-2 virus on site in less than 15 minutes. Now available in its version for environmental testing, a version for human diagnostics is now in its final validation phase for an expected release in the coming weeks.

Bertin Technologies, a subsidiary of CNIM, **C4Diagnostics**, a biotechnology company specialising in innovative in vitro testing for infectious diseases, and **Enalees**, a leader in molecular point-of-care diagnostics of infectious diseases in animals, entered into a partnership to develop **rapid field tests for detecting Covid-19 in less than 15 minutes**.

This project is based on the expertise and capacities of the three partners, each of whom are experts in developing, validating, manufacturing and marketing molecular tests:

- Enalees provides its RNA rapid extraction technology and its rapid molecular assay format that have been developed and validated with real success in veterinary applications,
- C4Diagnostics brings its scientific, regulatory and commercial expertise in the area of infectious respiratory diseases,
- Bertin Technologies provides the overall test management, its engineering skills and ensures that the product meets the prerequisites of the EC IVD directive.

In the first stage, the three partners developed a version with the aim of **detecting the presence of the virus in the environment**, whether outside or inside (public places, public transport, etc.). The process is simple: a sample is taken using either a swab (for surface testing) or a biological air sampler, which collects the biological particles present in the air and concentrates them into a liquid, making it possible to detect and identify them. The samples are then analysed using a portable reading instrument and the presence of the virus is confirmed or excluded within 15 minutes.

The first shipment is already scheduled for the Naval Firefighters in Marseille, who have been working in partnership with C4Diagnostics in their activities to fight COVID-19 since the beginning of the crisis.

In parallel the three partners are also working on the development of a version for **human testing**. This was submitted to the French National Reference Centre for Respiratory Viruses for validation, and their response is expected within the next few weeks.

This test is an ideal complement to the existing technologies used by large analytical platforms and provides a high degree of flexibility in test organisation. Especially, in cases where access to such a platform is difficult, or even impossible (confined environment or distance) or where the test result is required very rapidly due to a potential need to quarantine people or close premises.

Younes Lazrak, CEO of C4Diagnostics, confirms how the BEC-Sars-Cov-2 test fits into the current testing infrastructure: *"In March, C4Diagnostics set up a platform for detecting Covid-19 in urban environments in order to process a large number of samples. This "in-situ" test developed together with Enalees and Bertin Technologies complements what we already offer as it gives users the possibility to obtain a result almost instantaneously (instead of in several hours with our platform) and its portability makes it particularly suitable for confined or distant environments (for example, boats)."*

Bruno Vallayer, VP of Bertin Technologies, states: *"As with the very large majority of products developed by Bertin Technologies, this test will be produced in France. Alongside its key use in relation to human health, the test - coupled with innovative sampling techniques developed by Bertin Technologies - could be used for environmental tests to reassure users in planes, trains, public places, etc."*

Laurent Thiery, CEO and Co-founder of Enalees, concludes: *"Enalees has been marketing field diagnostic tests for infectious diseases of horses for two years, and, more recently, tests for cats and dogs. As our tests are used in more than 25% of equine veterinary clinics in France, we can provide our partners with a solution that is robust both in terms of performance and ease of use. Furthermore, the adaptation of an existing solution allowed a rapid go-to-market which is needed for such a test in the current context."*



ABOUT BERTIN TECHNOLOGIES

BERTIN TECHNOLOGIES, subsidiary of **CNIM** Group, relies on its long history of innovation to develop, produce and market innovative systems and equipment worldwide. The company is active at a global level. Its instrumentation activities are conducted through the brand **BERTIN INSTRUMENTS**. Its innovative measurement and sampling solutions are aimed at markets with strict requirements:

- Life Sciences (biological air samplers, biological sample preparation, bioanalysis kits, digital microscopes),
- Nuclear and radiation protection (portable radiation protection equipment, environmental radiation monitoring, radiation portal monitors, professional radon monitoring),
- Defence, security and safety: site, force and critical infrastructure protection (detection of CBRN threats, optronic surveillance modules and sensor networks set up in conjunction with the subsidiary Exensor).

www.bertin-instruments.com



ABOUT C4DIAGNOSTICS

Based in Marseille, France, **C4Diagnostics** designs, develops and markets innovative in-vitro diagnostic tests for infectious diseases. The C4Diagnostics tests, which have won numerous awards, are based on cutting-edge technology that rapidly detects pathogenic microorganisms through their own metabolism. C4Diagnostics' aim is to become one of the main players in the area of infectious disease diagnostics and to shake up the global market for infectious diseases in vitro testing by providing the relevant information to doctors and patients with greater speed and sensitivity. C4Diagnostics tackles major public health problems such as disease control and the fight against antibiotic resistance.

Since April 2020, C4Diagnostics has been operating the COMETE (COvid-19 Marseille Environmental TEsting) platform for the Marseille Naval Firefighters Battalion.

www.c4diagnostics.com



ABOUT ENALEES

Enalees is a French company founded in 2015 and based at the Genopole biopark in Evry, near Paris. Enalees develops, produces and markets molecular diagnostic tests for infectious diseases in pets (horses, dogs and cats) such as equine influenza, leptospirosis and Lyme disease. These innovative tests are simple, rapid and can be carried out in the field by veterinarians during consultations. The first tests for infectious diseases in horses were launched in 2019 and are already being used by a quarter of horse clinics in France. Enalees has also been marketing a few tests for dogs and cats, which brings its catalogue to more than 15 tests, which are available throughout Europe and will shortly be available in North America.

www.enalees.com

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