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COUNTRY'S LEADING TECHNICALLY VIABLE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY, PHARMANIAGA SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH SINOVAC TO SUPPLY COVID-19 VACCINE IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 January 2021: Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) is all set to carry out the fill and finish process of Covid-19 vaccine developed by Sinovac Life Sciences Co Ltd (Sinovac) which is expected ready to be distributed to the public by end of March 2021.

Pharmaniaga has entered into an agreement with Sinovac today for the supply of 14 million doses of bulk Covid-19 vaccine to carry out fill and finish activity. Held virtually, the signing ceremony was witnessed by Senior Minister of Defence Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Minister of Health Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Dr Adham Baba and Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Yang Berhormat Khairy Jamaluddin.

The project will be executed by Pharmaniaga's wholly owned subsidiary, Pharmaniaga LifeScience Sdn Bhd (PLS) at its Small Volume Injectable (SVI) high-tech plant which has been repurposed for the task. Pharmaniaga has been engaging with the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) to ensure that the plant continues to be in high compliance of regulatory requirements.

The GMP and EU certified plant has been identified by the Government as capable and compliance ready with the very strict process of manufacturing the vaccine in accordance to the requirements and international standards.

Pharmaniaga Group Managing Director, Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope said the Company is honoured to be given the trust by the Government to carry out the task of bringing the vaccine to the rakyat.

"We are very confident in carrying out the task successfully because our technical experts have been working on setting up a Halal vaccine plant in Malaysia since 2017 and when the Covid-19 spread around the world early last year, we immediately channelled our team to work with our global partners, including Sinovac on the fill and finish manufacturing activity and technology transfer to speed up the availability of vaccines against the pandemic.

"Subsequently, PLS has been recognised by the Government as one of the potential local companies to process fill and finish the vaccine after YB Khairy briefed the Prime Minister at National Science Council meeting in July 2020.

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“PLS is a well-established tech-viable plant and with a slight investment, we have now fitted the plant with facilities that are able to carry out the fill and finish process of the Covid-19 vaccine. Our highly skilled team of professionals at the plant are also eager to be part of the history in the fight against Covid-19,” he said.

Datuk Zulkarnain further added that the plant will process inactivated vaccine (or killed vaccine) which is vaccine consisting of virus particles that have been grown in culture and then lose disease producing capacity.

“This type of vaccine is very reliable and the technology has been proven to be dependable since it was established 40 years ago. It is also ready to use and need no dilution like some other Covid-19 vaccines offered in the market.

“The storage and distribution condition of this vaccine is between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius which can be catered by the existing facilities at PLS and our warehouses. Pharmaniaga has 26 years experience in managing vaccine distribution and has well established infrastructure to support the needs.

“Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine has completed the Phase 3 trials in Brazil and Turkey, and now in the process of getting approvals in those countries. Currently we are in the discussion with NPRA for registration and they have been very supportive on this project, thus we are confident to manufacture and have the vaccine ready to be distributed to hospitals by end of March 2021,” he added.

Datuk Zulkarnain considered the historic signing of Covid-19 vaccine bulk supply agreement with Sinovac today to be very beneficial not only for Pharmaniaga, but also for Malaysia.

“Malaysia has yet to have the capability to develop vaccines locally. Thus today is a historical event for the country because through this partnership, our team will be trained on vaccine technology, as well as gain valuable experience from working with Sinovac’s leading scientists, so that Malaysia will have its own specialists in the formulation of vaccines in the near future.

“The technology transfer will further strengthen Pharmaniaga’s plan to set up the first halal vaccine plant in the world by 2023 which supports the Government’s aspiration to reduce dependency on foreign companies in supplying vaccines for the rakyat.

“Indeed, we are creating an unprecedented value in Malaysian pharmaceutical industry through this partnership today, for the future of Malaysia,” he said.

Datuk Zulkarnain expressed his utmost appreciation to all relevant parties, especially Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science, Technology and

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Innovation, as well as Chinese Embassy in Malaysia for their strong and full support to the Covid-19 vaccine partnership between Pharmaniaga and Sinovac.

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical company of Boustead Holdings Berhad group of companies, together with Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera, are the major shareholders of the Company.

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ABOUT PHARMANIAGA BERHAD

Pharmaniaga Berhad, a member of Boustead Group is an investment holding company listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia. The Pharmaniaga Group's core businesses are generic pharmaceuticals manufacturing; research and development; marketing and sales; warehousing and distribution of pharmaceutical and medical products; supply, trading and installation of medical and hospital equipment as well as community pharmacy.

With a vision to be the premier Malaysian pharmaceuticals company, Pharmaniaga is guided by its philosophy of 'Do It Right Always' and is empowered by its mission of Passion for Patients. Already operating in 38 sites across 3 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia & Vietnam) the Pharmaniaga Group is positioned to be a regional player in the international pharmaceuticals arena.

ABOUT SINOVAC

Sinovac Biotech Ltd. is a China-based biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the research, development, manufacturing, and commercialization of vaccines that protect against human infectious diseases. Sinovac's product portfolio includes vaccines against hepatitis A and B, seasonal influenza, H5N1 pandemic influenza (avian flu), H1N1 influenza (swine flu), mumps and canine rabies. In 2009, Sinovac was the first company worldwide to receive approval for its H1N1 influenza vaccine, which it has supplied to the Chinese Government's vaccination campaign and stockpiling program. The Company is also the only supplier of the H5N1 pandemic influenza vaccine to the government stockpiling program.

Sinovac has filed a new drug application with the China Food & Drug Administration for its proprietary enterovirus 71 vaccine, having been proven effective in preventing hand, foot and mouth disease in infants and children during its Phase III trial. The

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company is currently developing a number of new products including a Sabin-strain inactivated polio vaccine, pneumococcal polysaccharides vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and varicella vaccine. Sinovac primarily sells its vaccines in China, while also exploring growth opportunities in international markets. The Company has exported select vaccines to Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines and Mexico, and was recently granted a license to commercialize its hepatitis A vaccine in Chile. For more information, please visit the Company's website at www.Sinovac.com .

Issued for Pharmaniaga Group by Corporate Communications Department, Pharmaniaga Berhad.

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