

COVID-19 – Launch of production phase of EasyCov, a saliva-based screening test, with market entry in France and Europe set for June.

The consortium formed by the biotechnology company SKILLCELL, a subsidiary of the ALCEN group, the CNRS SYS2DIAG laboratory (CNRS/ALCEN) and the digital company VOGO announces the production and marketing phases of the saliva test for the detection of SARS-COV-2 called EasyCov. There is already an efficient and reliable development, manufacture and distribution chain in place to prepare the swift deployment of the test.

EasyCov is a saliva-based test that can be used, in situ, via colorimetric readings in under an hour. The test is performed by a healthcare professional and involves collecting less than 1ml of saliva from under the patient's tongue. The sample is deposited in two tubes heated to 65° using a nomadic device (developed and manufactured by the company TRONICO, a subsidiary of ALCEN group). The colorimetric reading screens the tested patients for the presence of the virus.

Franck Molina, a researcher at the CNRS and director of Sys2Diag laboratory:

“This is a decisive step and I congratulate the remarkable collaboration of all those working on the project, from both the private and public sector. EasyCov is an innovation that was developed and fine-tuned in record time, ranking France as a world leader in research. I firmly believe that it will be a disruptive force in the fight against COVID-19.”

EasyCov is expected to obtain its CE marking in the first half of June, after which the EasyCov test will be manufactured in France by FIRALIS, in the eastern region of Alsace, with a goal of entering the French market from mid-June 2020. The test will be available at an ex-works catalogue price of €20 (before tax). EasyCov can then be included in a more comprehensive offering for end-customers, that may include logistics and the intervention of healthcare professionals.

The marketing of the EasyCov test will be handled by SKILLCELL.



Alexandra Prioux, CEO of SKILLCELL:

“EasyCov is an impactful innovation that not only was designed and developed in France, but will be manufactured in France as well. Its development is owed to a diversity of local skills that came together to create a comprehensive solution that meets numerous requirements in terms of urgency, safety, simplicity, economy, mobility, and more. EasyCov has all the necessary features to make it an integral part of lockdown-easing measures in France and Europe, and as early as June this year.”

In parallel to the clinical trial, VOGO is working on developing and launching the digital solution that, upon user consent, can automate results analysis by way of a colorimetric reading of the EasyCov test, which is required for the widespread screening of the population (“EasyCov Reader”). In addition to the reader application, VOGO is in charge of hosting and securely managing (in HDS format) health data. The digital portal used for this data management is also developed and rolled out by VOGO, and will ensure interoperability with all healthcare information systems which can only be accessed by competent authorities.

Christophe Carniel, Co-Founder and CEO of VOGO:

“The fight against COVID-19, and the next health care sector innovations in general, will be digital. This is the very essence of our work within the consortium. EasyCov Reader, coupled with the secure and interoperable portal we have developed, are vital components in the face of these challenges. Our technological contribution within the consortium will generate royalty payments that are indexed to future upcoming. As lockdowns are lifted, we believe the EasyCov test backed by a digital solution is an optimal means of supporting a gradual recovery in the economy and in sports - and ultimately in events and activities that draw large crowds.”

The EasyCov programme is also supported by la Direction Générale de l’Armement (DGA) and l’Agence de l’Innovation de Défense (AID), and by la Region Occitanie and l’Agence régionale de développement économique (AD’OCC) through financial backing in the form of subsidies.

About SKILLCELL

An ALCEN group subsidiary. SkillCell develops in-field diagnostic tests using its simplicity-centred approach: tests that must be able to be used by anybody, anywhere and at any time. Founded in Guadeloupe in 2017, the company has offices in Jarry (Guadeloupe), Paris and Montpellier. The SkillCell team brings together scientific experts and seasoned manufacturers to find solutions to medical and societal diagnostic testing issues by providing relevant, high-quality information that allows users to make well-informed choices with full transparency. More information at: www.skillcell-alcen.com

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About VOGO

VOGO develops, markets and distributes live & replay, audio and video solutions for spectators and professionals in sports arenas. The acquisition of Vokkero® in October 2019 enriched this range of professional solutions, with the integration of an internationally recognised line of audio communications systems in the world of sport (over 20 disciplines), as well as in industrial, service and entertainment sectors. All of the Group's technologies have patent protection. VOGO is present in France (Montpellier, Paris and Crolles) and in North America, with an office in New York. The Group has been listed on the Euronext Growth stock market since November 2018 (ISIN code: FR0011532225 - ALVGO). For more information: www.vogo-group.com

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About CNRS

The French National Center for Scientific Research is one of the most recognized and renowned public research institutions in the world. For more than 80 years, it has continued to attract talent at the highest level and to nurture multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research projects at the national, European and international levels. Geared towards the public interest, it contributes to the scientific, economic, social and cultural progress of France. The CNRS is above all 32,000 women and men, more than 1,000 laboratories in partnership with universities and other higher education institutions bringing together more than 120,000 employees and 200 professions that advance knowledge by exploring the living world, matter, the Universe, and the functioning of human societies. The CNRS ensures that this mission is carried out in compliance with ethical rules and with a commitment to professional equality. The close relationship it establishes between its research missions and the transfer of acquired knowledge to the public makes it today a key player in innovation in France and around the world. Partnerships with companies are at the heart of its technology transfer policy, and the start-ups that have emerged from

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 25 May 2020

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