

## NEC Oncolmmunity Acquires VAXIMM's Neoantigen Vaccine Development Assets

- **VAXIMM technology enables fast generation and delivery of personalized T-cell cancer vaccines and may overcome key issues faced by the neoantigen field**
- **NEC Oncolmmunity to initiate first clinical trial with lead program from acquisition in 2022**

**Oslo (Norway)/Tokyo (Japan) and Basel (Switzerland)/Mannheim (Germany) - March 8, 2022:** NEC Oncolmmunity (NOI), a subsidiary of NEC Corporation (NEC), and VAXIMM AG, a Swiss/German biotech company focused on developing an oral plug and play DNA vaccination technology to stimulate patients' cytotoxic T-cells targeting a wide range of cancer-related antigens, today announced that the companies have signed an agreement under which NOI will acquire all of VAXIMM's neoantigen program assets.

Under the agreement, NOI will acquire VAXIMM's neoantigen vaccine-related patents, license the requisite manufacturing patents, and will take over several existing contracts with key collaborators and partners. Financial terms of the agreement have not been disclosed. In 2019, the companies entered into a strategic clinical trial collaboration agreement and an equity investment agreement to develop novel personalized neoantigen cancer vaccines. VAXIMM retains rights to its first-in-class oral T-cell activation platform technology and all other product candidates, including VXM01, which is being developed for the treatment of glioblastoma.

Commenting on the announcement, **Richard Stratford, CEO of NOI**, said, "We believe this is a transformative transaction for NOI/NEC. With it, NOI/NEC has acquired the rights to an attractive delivery platform with broad therapeutic potential in oncology and other areas. Following this acquisition, we expect to initiate the first clinical study delivering personalized neoantigens during 2022, which is an important milestone. Our unique artificial intelligence (AI) technology is focused on several attractive areas of unmet medical need with major market potential, and we now have the components in place to fully realize this significant commercial opportunity."

**Thomas D. Szucs, MD, Chairman of the Board of VAXIMM**, said, "I am excited to see the progress that has been made in advancing our neoantigen program, already with the strong support of NEC as partner and investor. I congratulate the VAXIMM team, under Dr. Lubenau's leadership, for bringing this important project to clinical testing stage. We are delighted that the NOI team will now take this program forward into the clinic with the goal of bringing a novel therapy to patients in desperate need of more treatment options."

**Dr. Heinz Lubenau, CEO and Co-founder of VAXIMM**, said, "We believe that NEC Oncolmmunity is the ideal company to take VAXIMM's novel neoantigen programs through development and hopefully to the market to help patients. The first project from our earlier collaboration utilizing NEC's AI platform has received clinical trial approval in Europe, and we are excited that NEC will be putting its resources behind this and future neoantigen vaccine programs derived from VAXIMM's novel technology."

**Motoo Nishihara, Executive Vice President, CTO (Chief Technology Officer) and Member of the Board, NEC Corporation**, said, “Cancer and infectious diseases are two of the most serious healthcare challenges, with millions of new cases diagnosed worldwide annually. NEC’s core AI technology is well positioned for the development of personalized medicines, and we are strongly committed to delivering effective treatments for cancer patients and infectious diseases. We are confident that this acquisition of assets from VAXIMM will enable us to further develop our AI-optimized and personalized therapies to benefit the health of individual patients worldwide.”

The transaction expands NEC’s neoantigen drug development pipeline by broadening its focus into several compelling therapeutic areas with high unmet medical need. VAXIMM’s plug and play DNA vaccination technology is based on a live attenuated, safe, orally available bacterial vaccine strain, which is modified to stimulate patients’ cytotoxic T-cells to target a wide range of cancer-related antigens. The platform allows for fast and scalable manufacturing of personalized T-cell cancer vaccines and may overcome key challenges faced by many other approaches.

#### **About VAXIMM**

VAXIMM is a privately held, Swiss/German biotech company that is developing oral T-cell immunotherapies for patients suffering from cancer. VAXIMM’s plug and play DNA vaccination technology is based on a live attenuated, safe, orally available bacterial vaccine strain, which is modified to stimulate patients’ cytotoxic T-cells to target a wide range of cancer-related antigens. The Company has a pipeline of complementary development candidates targeting different tumor structures. Lead product candidate, oral VXM01, activates killer cells targeting tumor-specific vasculature and certain immune-suppressive cells, thereby increasing immune cell infiltration in solid tumors. VXM01 is currently in clinical development for several tumor types, including brain cancer. VAXIMM has recently licensed its neoantigen program assets to NEC Oncolmmunity, a subsidiary of NEC Corporation. VAXIMM’s platform allows for fast manufacturing of personalized T-cell cancer vaccines and may overcome key issues faced by other neoantigen approaches. VAXIMM has a collaboration agreement with China Medical System Holdings (CMS), granting CMS full rights in China and other Asian countries (excluding Japan) to VAXIMM’s existing programs.

VAXIMM’s investors include: BB Biotech Ventures, BCM Europe, BioMedPartners, CMS, M Ventures, NEC and CSV as well as Sunstone Life Science Ventures. VAXIMM AG is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland. Its wholly owned subsidiary, VAXIMM GmbH, located in Mannheim, Germany, is responsible for the Company’s development activities. For more information, please visit [www.vaximm.com](http://www.vaximm.com) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

#### **About NEC Corporation**

NEC Corporation has established itself as a leader in the integration of IT and network technologies while promoting the brand statement of “Orchestrating a brighter world.” NEC enables businesses and communities to adapt to rapid changes taking place in both society and the market as it provides for the social values of safety, security, fairness and efficiency

to promote a more sustainable world where everyone has the chance to reach their full potential. For more information, visit NEC at <http://www.nec.com>.

***About NEC Oncolmmunity AS***

NEC Oncolmmunity AS is an AI driven biotechnology company that has developed proprietary machine learning-based software which addresses the key knowledge gaps in the prediction of *bona fide* immunogenic neoantigens for personalized cancer immunotherapy, in addition to infectious disease vaccines. The AI technology can be used to identify optimal neoantigen targets for truly personalized cancer vaccines & cell therapies in a clinically actionable timeframe, and also facilitate effective patient selection for cancer immunotherapy. For more information, visit NEC Oncolmmunity AS at <http://www.oncoimmunity.com/>.

***About NEC's AI Drug Development Business***

For more information, please visit <https://www.nec.com/en/global/solutions/ai-drug/>

***About NEC's Neoantigen Prediction System***

NEC's neoantigen prediction system utilizes its proprietary AI, such as graph-based relational learning, trained on multiple sources of biological data to discover candidate neoantigen targets. These targets are carefully analyzed using proprietary machine learning algorithms that include in-house HLA binding and antigen presentation AI tools to evaluate the likelihood of eliciting a robust and clinically relevant T-cell response. With NEC Oncolmmunity now onboard, NEC continues to strengthen its top class neoantigen prediction pipelines with the aim of maximizing the therapeutic benefits of personalized cancer immunotherapy for patients worldwide. For more information, visit NEC at [www.nec.com](http://www.nec.com).

***Contact VAXIMM***

Dr. Heinz Lubenau  
Tel.: +49 621 8359 687 0  
Email: [info@vaximm.com](mailto:info@vaximm.com)

***Media Inquiries VAXIMM***

MC Services AG  
EU: Katja Arnold, Dr. Johanna Kobler  
USA: Laurie Doyle  
Tel EU: +49 89 210228 0  
Tel USA: +1 339 832 0752  
Email: [vaximm@mc-services.eu](mailto:vaximm@mc-services.eu)

***Contact NEC Corporation***

Joseph Jasper  
Corporate Communications Division  
Email: [j-jasper@nec.com](mailto:j-jasper@nec.com)