## Bioreactor Needs for the Developing world

Vaccine Self Sufficiency and Pandemic outbreaks

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### ESCO History



- <sup>"</sup> Founded in 1978
- <sup>"</sup> Pioneer in cleanroom equipment in Asean built the first cleanroom for siemens components in the then burgeoning semiconductor industry in 1980.
- <sup>"</sup> Headquarters in Singapore
- ″ Today:
  - <sup>"</sup> Esco products are in more 100+ countries
  - 300 distributors
  - 20 global offices worldwide
  - 6 Factories (Singapore, USA, UK, Lithuania, China, Taiwan)





**Business Units** 

#### **Corporate Venture Arm**







#### VacciXcell:

First Life sciences tools turnkey company dedicated to adherent cell culture US/DS/FF/Cold Chain from R&D to Commercial Production with in house architects, engineering and vertically integrated factories for Vaccine, Cell Therapy and Biosimilar industry.







#### SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SUBSIDIES FOR **NEWER VACCINES RUN OUT?**

In 2015, sixteen countries-just under one quarter of those currently eligible for GAVI support-are due to graduate. As graduation from GAVI approaches, countries are asked to pay incrementally more each year. The idea is to reduce the financial shock of withdrawn subsidies by gradually weaning countries off GAVI funding. However, whether gradual or not, the final withdrawal of GAVI funding will present many countries with considerable financial challenges-a bill they will find very hard to foot.

#### TRANSPORTING AND STORING VACCINES IS A CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL COST

Many vaccines have to be kept at very low temperatures to remain effective. This means that a 'cold chain' of refrigerators and cold boxes has to be set up and rigorously maintained-a very expensive operation. The cold chain requires considerable logistical resources to keep vaccines cool in places where power supplies are unreliable and daily temperatures can soar to 45°C, particularly in the remote and hard-to-reach areas where many communities live.

Ethiopia found out about the high attendant costs of cold chain when it introduced the pentavalent vaccine, which offers protection against five childhood diseases, into its national immunisation programme in 2007. In order to introduce this one vaccine, the country had to more than double its national capacity to refrigerate products.

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#### WE NEED MORE AFFORDABLE VACCINES

Honduras Will Pay Almost 1,000% More For Just Two Vaccines After Losing GAVI Donor Support In 2015



In 2011 Honduras paid: \$1.43 For PCV and rotavirus vaccines In 2015 Honduras will pay: \$15.50 For PCV and rotavirus vaccines

#### Almost 1,000% Increase

In 2015, sixteen countries will lose GAVI donor Gross National Income (GNI) per capita exceeds the GAVI eligibility threshold (currently at \$1,520) GAVI Alliance Graduation Policy [Online]. 2011 [cited 22 March 2012]. Available: http://bit.ly//KISqFq PAHO Vaccine Price list: http://bit.ly/IX0QBV PCV = Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Prices in USS

Although the average per capita income in Honduras was just \$1,800 in 2009, the country will graduate from GAVI support in 2015. When that happens, the price per child for the two newest vaccines, against rotavirus and pneumococcal disease, will rise from the \$1.43 Honduras pays today to \$15.50. The country will be expected to come up with around \$3 million each year to cover the cost of just these two vaccines.

Costs of Vaccine will increase when countries graduate from Gavi (MSF & Gavi DATA)

"

<sup>"</sup> R&D on diseases which are endemic within the region for both human and animal (prevent zoonotic diseases) which might be considered orphan drugs and not of interest to private industry (Native virus harvested locally might not be safe to export out to CDMO) before outbreaks occur....







- Global Security...Mers from Middle East to South Korea
- Waccination at source before pandemics occur.

### Why the need for self sufficiency? "Better control by using single use technology costs are variable and better planning of volume versus birth rate.



- Allows tech transfer and Product Development Partnerships (Meningitis) with localized distributed manufacturing within different country (assuming same bioprocess method)
- <sup>"</sup> Suggested new decade of vaccines 2020-2032 is shift towards increased self reliance in addition to financial sponsorship (PPP)
- Ø Bottom up approach versus top down (countries take ownership) as vaccines are national security.









#### Current Methods in the world rely on PPP and Financial Sponsorship



#### Millennium Developmental Goals (2000-2015)





REDUCE



• UNICEF purchases vaccines, negotiates favourable prices and forecasts vaccine requirements to ensure sustainable supplies.

When delivering vaccines, UNICEF adds micronutrient supplements to offset malnutrition, another critical factor in child survival.

Considerable progress was made in routine immunization against measles worldwide, particularly in Africa, protecting millions of children against this often fatal disease.

In 2008, coverage reached 81 per cent in the developing regions, up from 70 per cent in 2000.

However, projections show that without sustained funding for immunization activities in priority countries, mortality from measles could rebound quickly, resulting in approximately 1.7 million measles related deaths between 2010 and 2013.





#### Gavi 2000 (now phase 4 2016-2020)



Saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunisation in poor countries Developing the plan brought together more than 1100 individuals in 140 countries, representing 290 distinct organizations

Gavi funds immunisation programmes in developing countries where the vast majority of the world's unvaccinated children live.

We also support the strengthening of health systems to help ensure vaccines reach people everywhere.

As of December 2014, a total of over US\$ 9.6 billion has been committed for programmes in countries between 2001 and 2020.





### 1- THE VACCINE GOAL

#### Accelerate equitable uptake and coverage of

#### vaccines

• Support countries to introduce and scale up new vaccines

### 4- THE MARKET SHAPING GOAL

### Shape markets for vaccines and other immunisation products

### Gavi will also work to ensure that governments have access to appropriate vaccine prices after Gavi support ends.

Objectives:

- Ensure adequate and secure supply of quality vaccines
- Reduce prices of vaccines and other immunisation products to an appropriate and sustainable level
- Continue to build a healthy vaccine market, including by working to increase the number of suppliers
- Incentivise development of suitable and quality vaccines and other immunisation products



#### WHO Vaccine Action Plan 2020

#### <u>New opportunities and challenges for the Decade</u> of Vaccines (2011–2020)

- Good-quality assurance relies crucially on effective standardization, which ensures that each vaccine product can be manufactured consistently and also enables multiple manufacturers to make similar products of the same quality.
- Research is needed to accelerate development, licensing and uptake of vaccines that are currently in early development, including development of technologies for more efficacious and less expensive manufacturing of vaccines.

Secure quality supply.

Develop tools to strengthen global standardization of manufacturing and regulatory processes.





#### Back to Basics-Vaccine Bioprocessing.

#### Vaccine Bioprocessing what can we do to reduce costs for the developing world.



Design adherent cell lines to suspension

- <sup>"</sup> Develop new platforms (VLPs)
- <sup>"</sup> Conjugated vaccines
- <sup>7</sup> Utilize more efficient linearly scalable bioprocessing.





<sup>7</sup> Education:Healthcare Workers Scientists.



- 10 Times North-SouthScientific Gap R&D,Technicians.
- <sup>"</sup> Shortage of 2.5 Million healthcare workers





‴ WFI









### <sup>"</sup> Education

VAC





Itri BioMedical Technology Taiwan, 1999

Biopolis Singapore, 2005 Itri BioMedical Technology Taiwan, 1999



### " Cell Banking









### " Stainless Steel Welding





" ASME etc....



- "Salary and ability to afford vaccines.
- Wearly half the world's population, 2.8 billion people, survive on less than \$2 a day.
- About 20 percent of the world's population, 1.2 billion people, live on less than \$1 a day.



All Measurements in US Dollars

Price per vaccine is based upon the WHO-recommended number of doses Pentavalent vaccine protects against five diseases: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hep B, Hib





### " Compliance to cGMP







### ASEPTiCell™



ASEPTiCell<sup>™</sup> is a fully integrated robotic, highly flexible manufacturing system designed to aseptically fill-finish sterile injectable products.





### " Cold Chain





## Vxl Platform

- Single use-Variable Costs
- " Closed systems within Isolators means background CNC hence less running costs
- " Robotic Aseptic Filling
- "Localize production running on Tide Method means less bioprocess costs and faster to scale up as well as faster tech transfer.
- "Tide Factories in strategic hubs within developing countries can quickly produce same vaccine if needed
- " Easy to operate (basic scientific background)





## Tide Motion (Video)





### **Dual Directional Aeration maximizes Oxygenation** Effect.



#### Tide Motion Cell Culture Mechanism

#### **Roller Bottle-like Culture Mechanism**





Submerge and emerge cycle ensures a sufficient supply of nutrient and oxygen



Cells are embedded inside matrixes without interferred by the Tide motion



#### TideCell Thermostatic Mixing System

Single-Use. Homogenizes solution within minutes; Warms solution within 1~4 hours at various scales.







Install/remove mixing bags from side



Single-use wearingless, bearing free pump head.

Re-usable probe assembly

## TideCell System

" The matrix surface area (area for oxygen transfer) linearly increases with volume

- " Direct exposure of matrices to air. Oxygen can penetrate the Matrix Bed.
- <sup>"</sup> Dual direction oxygenation capability maximize oxygenation capability

Alternative Emerge and Submerge motion eliminates the channeling effect









#### 20,000x Roller Bottles in One 100 L Matrix Vessel





### Linearly Scalable





### Between Scale-up and Scale-out

- " Scale up : increase the volume of single container
- "Scale out: multiply the containers in smaller volume to reach the final larger volume



e.g. STR, packed-bed bioreactor, Wave bioreactor, TideCell bioreactor,... etc.

e.g. roller bottle, cell factory, cell stack, hyperstack, cell cube



## What does linear scale up mean

- "All culture environment kept the same from small to large scale this includes:
  - <sup>"</sup> Shear stress
  - ″ pH
  - ″ DO
  - " Temperature
  - " Nutrient





#### Is there real linear scale up bioreactors?

	Тетр	рН	Aeration	Shear	Nutrient	Conclusion
STR	0	0	0	X	0	Non-linear 4/5
Packed- Bed	0	$\Delta$ , plug flow	X	X	$\Delta$ , plug flow	Non-linear 3/5
Wave	0	0	X	X	0	Non-linear 3/5
Fountain fixed-bed	0	$\Delta$ , plug flow	X	0	$\Delta$ , plug flow	Non-linear 4/5
TideCell	0	$\Delta$ , plug flow	0	0	$\Delta$ , plug flow	Linear 5/5

Major challenge for scaling up is the balance between oxygen transfer and shear force generated by impeller in most submerge type bioreactors, except TideCell.

 $\Delta$  , plug flow means there are gradient distribution along the flow path which is not homogeneous.

STR and Wave is supposed to be homogeneous but only ideally especially Wave has lower agitation rate.

Aeration Capability in all bioreactors

"Aeration capability = S/V (S = surface area contact between oxygen and liquid; V = total volume of the liquid)







### Linearity in Aeration Capability (S/V)

VA

	Lab Scale	Bench Scale	Pilot scale	Production Scale	Conclusion
STR	Surface area for aeration/volume keep a constant			Could be Linear if conquer shear stress issue	
Packed-Bed	Volume for aeration to the volume for cell growth (packed bed) keeps decreasing			Non-linear	
Wave	Surface area for aeration increased 2D, volume for cell culture is increased 3D.			Non-linear	
Fountain fixed-bed	Surface area for aeration increased 2D, volume for cell culture is increased 3D.			Non-linear	
TideCell	Surface area for aeration / surface area for cell culture is kept constant			Linear	



### Stir Tank Reactor (STR)



Aeration linearity can be achieved in STR by maintaining the same oxygen transfer coefficient (kLa).

However, shear stress might exceed the critical value and result in cell damage.





Aeration surface area depends on the top exposure surface which is 2D expand (ab -> AB) but the cell culture volume is 3D expand (abc -> ABC). Only the depth C keeps the same, or the areation to volume is not linear.



### TideCell Bioreactor







 $\nabla A$ 





Aeration surface area is linearly increased as cell culture volume increases.

All scales from 500ml to 5000 liters maintain the same S/V ratio.

Therefore, it is linear scale up in teams of aeration.



# Is Tide method really Linearly scalable?

"Not quite...but close.

The heterogeneous distribution in packed-bed system of pH, Nutrient, Oxygen along the flow path may affect cell growth.

How was it solved in Tide Method?



# How TideCell Solve the Aeration Issue?



Oxygen-enriched culture medium flow up and submerge the culture matrixes same as other packed bed system.

Air directly enter the matrixes to quickly saturate the oxgen in the matrixes for cell growth.

Dual Direction Aeration provides sufficient oxygen for high density





### How TideCell solves Nutrient linearity.



Well nutrient adjusted culture medium flow up and submerge the culture matrixes same as other packed bed system. One-fifth culture medium remained on the matrixes to provide enough nutrient before the next cycle. A controlled cycle frequency ensure the nutrient is sufficient for cell growth in high cell density.

High medium absorption rate in the BioNOC II matrixes provide sufficient nutrient for high density cell growth during exposure. (one gram BioNOC II absorbs 4 gram culture medium)



## Glucose Profile in the Matrices with Differing Exposure Time

System: CelCradle-500, 5.5 g BioNOC II carriers Cell line: CHO, Culture Medium: HQ-PF-CHO Cell Density:  $3.48 \times 10^9$  cells/bottle =  $3.48 \times 10^7$  cells/ml matrix = $1.16 \times 10^8$  cells/ml Initial glucose concentration = 400 mg/dL, 325 mg/dL, 150 mg/dL



### Actual Cell Culture



CHO, HQ-PF-CHO VERO, M199/5%FBS 1~30 mins exposure time obtain similar cell growth profile



### How TideCell solves pH issue



Well adjusted culture medium in controlled pH flow up and submerge the culture matrixes same as other packed bed system.

growth.

Air directly enter the matrixes with controlled CO2 to stabilize the pH in the matrixes for cell growth. CO2 concentration is adjusted automatically according to cell density.

Dual Direction pH and CO2 control provide stabilized pH for high density cell

## pH Profile in the Matrices with Different Exposure Time System: CelCradle-500, 6.5 g BioNOC II carriers

Cell line: CHO, Culture Medium: HQ-PF-CHO

Cell Density:  $3.48 \times 10^9$  cells/bottle =  $3.48 \times 10^7$  cells/ml matrix =  $1.16 \times 10^8$ cells/ml

Initial glucose concentration = 400 mg/dL



#### Tide Method Shortest Process Development Time

Process requirements	Length of process development
TideCell Bioreactor	Medium (Number of bioprocess parameters and formulas to calculate =matrix to medium ration, tidal speed, culture medium, time for infection, temperature, pH, most of them will be fixed during small scale and don't need to modify again.)
Roller Bottle	Shortest (Number of bioprocess parameters and formulas to calculate = rpm, culture medium, time for infection, initial pH, directly expand the number of bottles, but the operation time among all bottles will affect the consistency in each bottle)
Stirred Microcarrier Bioreactor	Longest (Number of bioprocess parameters and formulas to calculate =rpm for seeding, rpm for cell culture, rpm for virus production, sparging rate, culture medium renewal, anti-foam, time for infection, temperature, pH, DO. rpm, sparging rate, nutrient consumption will be different for different scale.)
Packed Bed Basket Bioreactor	Longer (Number of bioprocess parameters and formulas to calculate =rpm during seeding, cell culture, virus production, sparging rate, time for infection, anti-foam, temperature, pH, nutrient renewal. Rpm, sparging rate will be different for different scale)



#### Length of process development and linear scalability

Number of process variables to define & calculate when implementing TideCell:

1.) Matrix to Medium ratio: this is an unique factor that can be done in TideCell to optimize the output.

2.) Tidal Speed: usually not much interferences on cell growth with different Tidal speed. However, fast speed could reduce the cycle time of tide which theoretically could bring in more homogeneous culture condition during operation.

3.) Time of Infection: already determined during small scale T-flask study.

4.) Cycle Time of tide: within 30 minutes does not have any interferences on cell growth.

5.) Temperature for cell culture/virus production: fix already during small T-flask study

6.) pH: fix already during T-flask study





#### Suspension Bioprocess Development Time

#### Length of process development and scalability

Number of process variables to define & calculate when implementing Microcarrier Stirred tank:

- <sup>"</sup> Type of impeller and CFD
- <sup>"</sup> Type of sparger
- " Type of anti-foam
- <sup>"</sup> CFD on shear forces
- <sup>"</sup> Effect of adhesion
- <sup>"</sup> Type of medium exchange
- " Additional of baffles
- " Type of propeller
- <sup>"</sup> Type of gasket
- <sup>"</sup> Shape / dimension of tank
- ″ Etc.....





Linearly Scalable R&D to Seed Preparation to Commercial Production same bioprocess method hence scaling up has zero bioprocess time!

ESCO

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#### Vaccine Facility BSL 3 and BSL 4 Isolator TideCell



EQUIPMENT 3D VIEW





### Vaccine Facility Single Use



400 million doses \$10 million to build and commission

- <sup>"</sup> Own US/DS/FF Equipment, Technology, Media Transfer, Validation.
- Cold Chain
- ″ QC
- Containerized Modules with own SCADA and Computer Systems





Esco **Vision** is to provide enabling technologies for scientific discoveries to make human lives healthier and safer.

- 100% Singapore privately
  held Company with 2<sup>nd</sup>
  Generation in place.
  Proven track-record since
  1978 internalizing high end
  technology, localizing
  production and making it
  accessible to Asia and
  developing nations.
- Brought cleanroom technology, biosafety and isolation technology making it accessible and affordable for developing countries.
- In 2010 we rose up to the challenge to develop technologies for a vaccine self sufficiency project, the developed technologies were spun off into VacciXcell in June 2015

## Bioprocessing Challenges in the Developing world solved by Tidecell

Education level (number of trained scientists)	Simple Technology easy to learn with basic science. cGMP training and adherence.
Electrical Supply (unstable) and costs	Single use technology. Lower power consumption as less utilities need to be generated for SIP and Hvac.
Costs of entire system	Within Isolator costs are minimal since cleanroom is CNC, less cGMP issues can operate in shirt sleeve.
St.st. manufacturing locally insufficient skilled welders (not possible to ship large stirred tanks).	Single use technology that doesn't need st.st. vessels. If required for SIP mixer st.st. instead of single use, vessel is small and can be shipped.



### Concluding Remarks

Selection	Choices for the Developing country
Suspension or Adherent	Adherent
SIP or Single Use	Single Use
Culture Method (2D, Wave, Packed Bed, Stirred Tank, Microcarrier, Fountain, Tide)	Tide Method Linearly Scalable from R&D to Commercial up to 5000 litres with zero bioprocessing scale up time.

Developing organic capabilities for bioprocessing within developing countries for Gavi Graduates.

- <sup>"</sup> This means R&D on Adherent Vaccines should first start on using our technology to reduce bioprocess scaling up and hence final Vaccine Costs since R&D expenses is 1 component that contributes to final costs of Vaccines.
- We are also looking for novel technologies to further reduce Downstream Processing Costs



### Contact Details

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