

Stock Data

Share Price:	132.5p
Market Cap:	£321.0m*
Shares in issue:	248.8m*

*Post-Placing numbers

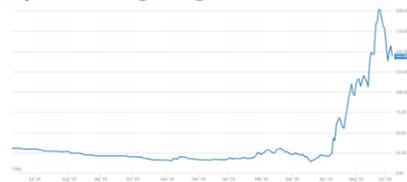
Company Profile

Sector:	Healthcare
Ticker:	AVCT
Exchange:	AIM

Activities

Avacta Group plc ('Avacta', 'the Group') is a biotechnology company which has developed the proprietary Affimer® technology platform, a unique engineered alternative to antibodies. Affimer® proteins can be developed quickly for drug development and a wide range of life sciences applications in the diagnostics and research sectors.

1-year Share price performance



Source: [LSE](#)

Past performance is not an indication of future performance.

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Avacta Group plc

Avacta has announced that the **BAMS™** diagnostic test for the COVID-19 infection being developed with its partner **Adeptrix** (Beverly MA, USA), has reached prototype stage and can detect the coronavirus spike protein in model samples in the concentration range appropriate for a clinical diagnostic test. Such an assay could provide highly sensitive and specific testing for up to a thousand samples per day in a hospital setting using standard equipment that is available (but not currently used for coronavirus testing) thus contributing significantly to an increase in global testing capacity. Both Avacta and Adeptrix expect to independently test the prototype BAMS™ assay shortly, with expectation of it remaining on track for launch as a professional-use product this coming summer.

Prototype test detects the virus spike protein

The bead-assisted mass spectrometry ("BAMS") assay uses the Affimer reagents specific to the SARS-COV-2 virus recently developed by Avacta to capture the spike protein from the sample for rapid detection. This unique method breaks up the spike protein captured from the samples by Affimer coated beads and is then able to identify fragments of the spike protein using mass spectrometry at concentrations in the range found in patient samples generated from standard throat swabs.

The combination of the selectivity of the Affimer reagents used to capture the virus spike protein with the precision and accuracy of mass spectrometry detection, provides for a very high degree of specificity in the assay. The next step in the development of the final product will be to run on the installed base of mass spectrometers in different clinical laboratories around the world, in order to evaluate and optimise the BAMS assay using patient samples at laboratory sites in the UK and US. It is intended that this will be done imminently before moving to manufacturing, having already completed clinical validation to quantify the sensitivity/specificity and gained CE/FDA approval for professional use this summer.

Further work beyond this is likely to include testing Affimer reagents on other SARS-COV-2 antigens, such as nucleocapsid protein. Diagnostic assays to nucleocapsid protein, for example, may enhance sensitivity for detection of COVID-19 infection, since this is a highly abundant viral protein. Expanding detection to such antigens, should enable configuration of a multiplexed BAMS assay to simultaneously monitor multiple viral proteins for added specificity in the case of future pandemics. The precision and accuracy of mass spectrometry detection using the BAMS assay platform is expected to allow researchers to monitor molecular changes that may occur through natural evolution of the virus.

Approaching a major inflection point?

Having recently put the necessary financial resources in place, Avacta now appears positioned to reach a major inflection point. Timing is of the essence for any COVID-19 antigen test development. Today's news confirms rapid progress in development of this key diagnostic test that seems well suited for large-scale manufacturing and commercialisation as it offers stable lot-to-lot performance due to it being a recombinant technology. Combined with the point-of-care rapid antigen test the Group has under development with **Cytiva**, Avacta appears to be ideally placed for the creation of significant long-term value for shareholders. Clients who might be interested in learning more about this work can [register here](#) to participate in an investor webinar being hosted jointly by Turner Pope Investments (TPI) Ltd and Vox Markets at 2pm on 11 June 2020.

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