

Stock Data

Share Price:	128.5p
Market Cap:	£319.7m
Shares in issue:	248.8m

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 its appointment of BBI Solutions, part of [BBI Group](#) ('BBI'), to manufacture the saliva-based rapid SARS-CoV-2 antigen test that is being developed with its partner, [Cytiva](#) (formerly part of GE Healthcare Life Sciences). This follows news from [22 April 2020](#), that the partnership had progressed rapidly with several highly specific [Affimer®](#) reagents having already been successfully generated. Anticipating very high demand for the test, BBI has now been selected as a preferred manufacturing partner, while Avacta also continues discussions with other high volume producers with a view to ensuring access to additional capacity that may be needed to address global needs both now and in the future.

Developing a potential 'game changing' product

Simplicity, scale and early detection are all critical factors that have to be considered by users seeking rapid testing and diagnostics as a positive step towards controlling the current global health crisis. Improvements in ease of use created through the Avacta-Cytiva partnership, which offer rapid, reliable testing while eliminating the invasive nasopharyngeal swab protocol without compromising performance, has potential to become a 'game changer' in the next phase of the global pandemic response.

Realistically, the offer of mass testing with low cost disposable tests, whilst also eliminating the expense/complexity of extraction through provision of a less invasive sample collection process, is most likely to open testing access to wider global communities. Indeed, given that most government agencies/health practitioners consider frequent testing of a large percentage of the population to be the best path forward, and critical for getting the global economy back to work, the near and longer-term market opportunity presented is clearly very large indeed.

Appointing the ideal manufacturer

BBI Solutions is a leading global developer and manufacturer of raw materials and finished test products for the in-vitro diagnostics market, with manufacturing sites in five different countries, spanning four continents. The manufacturing agreement between Avacta and BBI comprises the accelerated development and validation of a scaled-up manufacturing process that has the potential to ramp up to a production capacity of millions of tests per month. Avacta, Cytiva and BBI are now undertaking a technology transfer that covers the prototype along with the related manufacturing procedures for the saliva-based test.

Closing in on a major inflection point?

Having recently put the necessary [financial resources in place](#), Avacta now appears to be rapidly closing in on a number of major inflection points. While timing remains of the essence for any COVID-19 test developments, billion-dollar markets are available right now to first movers capable of delivering an approved antigen testing product that comes with the necessary scale, reliability and ease of use. While highlighting the development potential offered through Affimer molecules, today's news covers just one of a number of ambitious and rapidly developing projects Avacta presently has underway, and all of which address areas of major growth potential. In this respect, it is important to note that Avacta's COVID-related developments are in addition to the significant potential value of the Group's existing therapeutics business which is focused on developing novel cancer therapies, both in-house and with partners such as [Daewoong Pharmaceutical](#), [Moderna Therapeutics](#), [ADC Therapeutics](#) and [LG Chem Life Sciences](#), using its two proprietary drug development platforms:

Affimer® and [preCISION™](#). Although, given the development stage and dynamic background, it is not presently possible to award specific, high confidence value to any of these, successful delivery could further multiply Avacta's current market valuation in the relatively near-term.

Clinical Validation

Avacta aims to begin clinical validation of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen test as soon as possible by using the first pilot batches generated as part of the technology transfer process for these studies.

In parallel with these clinical validation studies, which will be run within the UK government's [CONDOR programme](#) and potentially with other collaborators globally, BBI will work with Avacta and Cytiva to produce the additional technical documentation that is required for CE marking of the final product and subsequent launch.

Avacta's diagnostics business has also invested in order to accelerate its securing of [ISO 13485 accreditation](#). This oversees a Quality Management System compliance standard for the Medical Device industry which, in turn, will streamline CE marking and other regulatory approval processes for the Group.

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