GSK and Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Bio-Technique Co. Ltd. have entered into a definitive agreement to form a joint venture focused on developing and manufacturing flu vaccines for the Chinese market.

Jean Stéphenne, president and general manager of GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, said, “This new alliance enables GSK to build new vaccines capability in a critical emerging market such as China. The new joint venture will combine the potential of GSK’s adjuvant technology and expertise in vaccine development together with the extensive experience of Shenzhen Neptunus in the Chinese vaccines market. Together we will gain access to specific local influenza antigens and make available new vaccines to benefit public health in China and neighboring territories.”

The alliance will develop and manufacture influenza vaccines for China, Hong Kong and Macau that will include vaccines for seasonal, pre-pandemic and pandemic influenza. These vaccines are expected to become available during the next few years. GSK will provide access to its adjuvant system, which helps to improve efficiency and optimize production by increasing the number of vaccine doses that can be produced using a smaller amount of antigen. Shenzhen will provide additional local manufacturing capacity and R&D expertise. Both companies will provide further investment in manufacturing.

GSK will have a 40% stake in the joint venture, contributing $33.5 million in cash and assets. Shenzhen Neptunus will take a 60% stake equivalent to $49.4 million. Under the terms of the agreement, GSK is expected to purchase additional shares and obtain a majority equity interest in the joint venture within the next two years.

About GSK
GSK is one of the few pharmaceutical companies researching both medicines and vaccines for the World Health Organization’s three priority diseases – HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and are very proud to have developed some of the leading global medicines in these fields. Headquartered in the UK and with operations based in the US, we are one of the industry leaders, with an estimated seven per cent of the world’s pharmaceutical market.

About Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Bio-Technique Co. LTD
Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Bio-Technique Co. LTD, a hi-tech enterprise, covers research and development, production, sales and distribution under the guidance of the mission "Safeguard human health", and specializes in gene engineering drugs and preventive biological products. Its main products are recombinant human interferon a-2b for injection (rhIFN a-2b), recombinant human interleukin-2 for injection (rhIL-2) and subunit influenza vaccine. Due to many years of excellent management, it keeps its leading status in domestic market and pursues the strategy of internationalization.