

MUFG Bank, Ltd.

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MUFG to Invest in VLP Therapeutics, Inc.

Tokyo, December 27, 2021 --- MUFG's consolidated subsidiary MUFG Bank today announced that it has decided to invest in VLP Therapeutics, Inc. (VLPT), a U.S. biotechnology company that develops vaccines for cancer, malaria, dengue fever, etc.

VLPT was established in 2013 by biopharmaceutical industry veterans with a mission to develop innovative medical treatments that transform traditional vaccine and targeted antibody therapies to address unmet medical needs worldwide. In June 2020, VLPT established a wholly owned subsidiary, VLP Therapeutics Japan, LLC (VLPT Japan), which is working on research and development of COVID-19 vaccines that utilize self-amplifying RNA (replicon) technology^[1]. VLPT Japan has received subsidies from the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and started a clinical trial for VLPT Japan's COVID-19 vaccine candidate in October 2021.

MUFG Bank announced a Sustainable Business Investment Strategy in August 2020, which considers social and environmental impact in addition to financials and serves as the foundation for future expansion in this area. It is also a signatory to the Operating Principles for Impact Management^[2], which were developed by the International Finance Corporation and other leading impact investors, and is investing in funds that make impact investments in the environmental field.

Through this investment, MUFG Bank will support VLPT to put its vaccines into practical use for the purpose of preventing infectious diseases and treating cancer, as well as support the operation of VLPT Japan's COVID-19 vaccine development business. In addition, it will support to make the social impacts^[3] resulting from the spread of vaccines visible and its management, and contribute to solving social issues by accumulating know-how on impact investment in the social sector.

About VLP Therapeutics, Inc.

Location	Gaithersburg, Maryland, U.S.
Founded	2013
Representative	Wataru Akahata, CEO
Business description	R&D of vaccines for infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever; R&D of therapeutic vaccines for cancer treatment

About VLP Therapeutics Japan, LLC

Location	Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Founded	June 2020
Representative	Wataru Akahata, CEO
Business description	R&D of vaccines for COVID-19

^[1] Harmless particles that have the same outer shell and shape of a native virus but do not contain any genetic material. Administering VLPs (virus-like particles) with the same shape as the target virus triggers an immune response where the body creates antibodies to neutralize the virus.

^[2] For details on the Operating Principles for Impact Management, please refer to the following link:
https://www.mufg.jp/dam/pressrelease/2021/pdf/news-20210315-001_en.pdf

^[3] VLPT Japan's COVID-19 vaccines are expected to promote manufacturing technology and improve distribution efficiency by reducing inoculation dosage amounts and advance medical technology through its vaccine technology, which has a high ability to respond to mutant strains.

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About MUFG Bank

MUFG Bank, Ltd. is Japan's premier bank, with a global network spanning around 50 countries. Outside of Japan, the bank offers an extensive scope of commercial and investment banking products and services to businesses, governments and individuals worldwide.

MUFG Bank's parent, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG) is one of the world's leading financial groups. Headquartered in Tokyo and with over 360 years of history, MUFG has a global network with approximately 2,500 locations in more than 50 countries. The Group has about 170,000 employees and offers services including commercial banking, trust banking, securities, credit cards, consumer finance, asset management, and leasing. The Group aims to "be the world's most trusted financial group" through close collaboration among our operating companies and flexibly respond to all of the financial needs of our customers, serving society, and fostering shared and sustainable growth for a better world. MUFG's shares trade on the Tokyo, Nagoya, and New York stock exchanges. For more information, visit <https://www.mufg.jp/english>.