

**NOTE: The following statement was distributed globally by GlaxoSmithKline plc**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GSK joins global vaccine alliance to help prevent millions of children from contracting pneumococcal disease in the world's poorest countries**

- **Unique finance mechanism ensures vaccinations will begin in 2010**
- **Up to 300 million doses to be supplied over ten years**
- **Synflorix™ supplied at around 90% reduction of cost in developed markets**

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GSK has become one of the first manufacturers to sign a unique agreement with the GAVI Alliance (GAVI) that has the potential to save millions of children from dying in the world's poorest countries. GSK will supply up to 300 million doses of its vaccine Synflorix, for invasive pneumococcal disease, to GAVI over a ten year period. Pneumococcal disease is a leading cause of death in children under the age of five in developing countries.<sup>i</sup>

The agreement is funded by a ground-breaking mechanism called an Advance Market Commitment (AMC) and is the result of years of planning by GAVI, UNICEF, the World Bank and major donors, who recognised the potential of vaccines to prevent diseases in developing countries. The mechanism is backed by the G8 and was officially launched by the AMC partners and donors on 12 June 2009.

**Andrew Witty, CEO of GlaxoSmithKline said:** "The coalition that has made this possible is providing new means to transform global public health. The AMC is precisely the sort of innovative model needed to accelerate access to vaccines for people living in the poorest countries. The typical 15-20 year 'vaccine gap' between access in developed countries versus the world's poorest countries is unacceptable. This AMC means children in Africa will start to receive Synflorix this year."

The agreement for supply of pneumococcal vaccines has been financed by GAVI, five donor countries – the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, Norway and Italy – and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.<sup>ii</sup> By guaranteeing the availability of initial purchase funds, the AMC enables vaccine makers to invest in development and manufacturing capacity. In addition, by contracting significant volumes over the long-term, manufacturers can significantly reduce the cost of their vaccines. Pneumococcal vaccines will be supplied at an approximate reduction of 90% of the cost in developed markets.<sup>iii</sup> Over the ten year period of the agreement, GSK will supply up to 300 million doses of its pneumococcal vaccine, valued at approximately US\$1.3 billion.

**Jean Stéphenne, Chairman and President of GSK Biologicals said:** “Today’s announcement is a vital step forward for public health in developing countries. A pneumococcal vaccine can mean the difference between life and death, as pneumococcal disease kills nearly one million children each year<sup>iv</sup> and sickens millions more with severe respiratory illnesses<sup>v</sup>. We are making good progress to rapidly increase our capacity to supply these new contracted volumes of our vaccine, with the first doses expected to be available in Africa in 2010.”

**Orin Levine, Executive Director of the International Vaccine Access Center said:** “I applaud the groundbreaking partnership of vaccine manufacturers, developing country governments, donors, the World Bank, and the GAVI Alliance that has made the most advanced pneumococcal vaccines available to the world’s neediest children at steeply discounted prices and faster than ever before. This year, the Advance Market Commitment will begin saving lives and improving the health of African children and families.”

#### **Notes to editors**

- Synflorix helps protect against diseases due to Pneumococcus. It contains 10 serotypes, three of which – 1, 5, and 14 – were required to be included in the vaccine for the AMC due to the high burden of invasive diseases caused by these serotypes in the developing world.
- Over the next decade, GSK has committed to provide an average of up to 30 million doses annually, starting with more than a million doses in 2010. GSK will continue to rapidly ramp up supply thereafter to meet contracted volumes. The company expects to deliver the first doses of its pneumococcal vaccine to Africa later this year.
- GSK has invested more than US\$400 million in a dedicated manufacturing plant in Singapore that will produce several hundred million doses of the vaccine annually in the coming years.
- Synflorix was the first pneumococcal vaccine to receive WHO ‘prequalification’ for global use, a regulatory endorsement that is a precondition for participation in the AMC.<sup>vi</sup>

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#### **About GlaxoSmithKline Inc.**

GlaxoSmithKline – one of the world’s leading research-based pharmaceutical, vaccine and health-care companies – is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. In Canada, GlaxoSmithKline is among the top 15 investors in research and development, contributing more than \$156 million in 2008 alone. GSK is designated a Caring Company by Imagine Canada, and is consistently recognized as one of the 50 best companies to work for in Canada. For company information please visit, [www.gsk.ca](http://www.gsk.ca).

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Corporate Communications  
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.  
905-819-3363

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- vi World Health Organization (2010). United Nations prequalified vaccines: WHO list of vaccines for purchase by UN agencies as of February 2010. Accessed 16 March 2010 from: [http://www.who.int/immunization\\_standards/vaccine\\_quality/pq\\_suppliers/en/](http://www.who.int/immunization_standards/vaccine_quality/pq_suppliers/en/)