

Evry, 1st June 2020,

## Bertin Technologies, C4Diagnostics and Enalees launch BEC-SARS-CoV-2, an ultra-rapid and sensitive Covid-19 test kit

*The three partners consolidated their expertise on developing a highly-sensitive test capable of detecting SARS-CoV-2 on site, in less than 15 minutes. The environmental test kit is now available, while the human diagnostic kit is in its final validation phase and scheduled for release in the upcoming weeks.*

**Bertin Technologies**, a subsidiary of CNIM, **C4Diagnostics**, a biotechnology company specialising in innovative in vitro testing for infectious diseases, and **Enalees**, a leader in molecular point-of-care diagnostics of infectious diseases in animals, have entered into a partnership to develop **rapid field tests for detecting SARS-Cov-2 in less than 15 minutes**.

This project is based on the expertise and capacities of the three partners, each an expert in developing, validating, manufacturing, and marketing molecular tests:

- ▶ Enalees provides its efficient extraction technology combined with a rapid molecular assay format that have been developed and validated with documented success in veterinary applications,
- ▶ C4Diagnostics brings its scientific, regulatory, and commercial expertise in the area of infectious respiratory diseases,
- ▶ Bertin Technologies provides the overall test management, its engineering skills, and ensures that the product meets the prerequisites of the **EC IVD directive**.

In the first stage, the three partners developed a version with the aim of **detecting the presence of the virus in the environment**, whether outdoor or indoor (public space, public transport, etc.). The procedure is simple: a sample is taken using either a swab (for surface testing) or a biological air sampler, which collects the biological particles present in the air and concentrates them into a liquid, making it possible to detect and identify them. The samples are then analysed using a portable reading device and the presence of the virus is confirmed or excluded within 15 minutes.

The first shipment is already scheduled for the Naval Firefighters in Marseille, who have been working in partnership with C4Diagnostics in their fight against COVID-19 since the beginning of the crisis.

In parallel, the three partners are also working on the development of a human test kit. This was submitted to the French National Reference Centre for Respiratory Viruses for validation, and their response is expected within the next few weeks.

This test is an ideal complement to the existing technologies used by large analytical platforms and provides a high degree of flexibility. Particularly, in cases where access to such a platform is difficult or impossible (confined environment or distance), or where the test result is required very rapidly due to a potential need to quarantine people or close premises, this test becomes crucial.

**Younes Lazrak**, CEO of **C4Diagnostics**, confirms how the BEC-Sars-Cov-2 test fits into the current testing infrastructure:



*In March, C4Diagnostics set up a platform for detecting SARS-CoV-2 in urban environments in order to process a large number of samples. This "in-situ" test developed together with Enalees and Bertin Technologies complements what we already offer, as it gives users the possibility to obtain results almost instantaneously (instead of in several hours with our platform), and its portability makes it particularly suitable for confined or distant environments (for example, boats).*

**Bruno Vallayer**, VP of **Bertin Technologies**, states:



*As with a great majority of products developed by Bertin Technologies, this test will be produced in France. Alongside its key use in relation to human health, the test - coupled with innovative sampling techniques developed by Bertin Technologies - could be used for environmental tests to reassure users in planes, trains, public space, etc.*

**Laurent Thiery**, CEO and Co-founder of **Enalees**, concludes:



*Enalees has been providing field diagnostic tests for infectious diseases of horses for two years, and, more recently, tests for cats and dogs. As our tests are used in more than 25% of equine veterinary clinics in France, we can provide our partners with a solution that is robust both in terms of performance and ease of use. Furthermore, the adaptation of an existing solution allowed a rapid go-to-market which is needed for such a test in the current context.*

**About Bertin Technologies** : BERTIN TECHNOLOGIES, subsidiary of CNIM Group, relies on its long history of innovation to develop, produce and market innovative systems and equipment worldwide. The company is active on a global level. Its instrumentation activities are conducted through the brand BERTIN INSTRUMENTS. Its innovative measurement and sampling solutions are aimed at markets with strict requirements:

- Life sciences (biological air samplers, biological sample preparation, bioanalysis kits, digital microscopes),
- Nuclear and radiation protection (portable radiation protection equipment, environmental radiation monitoring, radiation portal monitors, professional radon monitoring),
- Defence, security and safety: site, force and critical infrastructure protection (detection of CBRN threats, optronic surveillance modules and sensor networks set up in conjunction with the subsidiary Exensor).

[www.bertin-instruments.com](http://www.bertin-instruments.com)

**About C4Diagnostics** : Based in Marseille, France, C4Diagnostics designs, develops and markets innovative in-vitro diagnostic tests for infectious diseases. The C4Diagnostics tests, which have won numerous awards, are based on cutting-edge technology that rapidly detects pathogenic microorganisms through their own metabolism. C4Diagnostics' aim is to become one of the main players in the area of infectious disease diagnostics and to shake up the global market for infectious diseases in vitro testing by providing the relevant information to doctors and patients with greater speed and sensitivity. C4Diagnostics tackles major public health problems such as disease control and the fight against antibiotic resistance.

Since April 2020, C4Diagnostics has been operating the COMETE (COvid-19 Marseille Environmental TESting) platform for the Marseille Naval Firefighters Battalion.

[www.c4diagnostics.com](http://www.c4diagnostics.com)

**About Enalees** : Enalees is a French company founded in 2015 and based at the Genopole technology center in Evry, near Paris. Enalees develops, produces and markets molecular diagnostic tests for infectious diseases in pets (horses, dogs and cats) such as equine influenza, leptospirosis and Lyme disease. These innovative tests are simple, rapid, and can be carried out in the field by veterinarians during consultations. The first tests for infectious diseases in horses were launched in 2019 and are already being used by a quarter of equine clinics in France. Enalees has also been marketing a few tests for dogs and cats, which brings its catalogue to more than 15 tests, which are available throughout Europe and will shortly be available in North America.

[www.enalees.com](http://www.enalees.com)

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