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Reber Genetics wants to be a 'king-maker' in the vaccines space

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Taiwanese veterinary vaccines developer Reber Genetics is searching for partners to bring its targeted sub-unit vaccines to a global market.

Founded in 2008, the firm has built a pipeline of vaccine using two genetic engineering techniques: reverse genetic engineering and fusion protein creation.

Dr Frank Chang, the company's assistant manager of R&D, said: "We want to become the king-maker and not be the king ourselves."

He told delegates at the recent Animal Health Innovation Asia forum – hosted in Beijing – of the company's willingness to lend its antigen delivery platform and its expertise to potential partners, particularly in the swine vaccine industry.

Additionally, the company has another prong to its growth plan – it aims to bring its own vaccines to a wider geographic marketplace. Reber has already developed the world's first approved sub-unit vaccine for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) virus, which has been launched in Taiwan. The company is now seeking overseas markets for the PRRS vaccine.

Reber's pipeline also features a host of other biologicals. A vaccine for porcine circovirus 2 (PCV2) is currently being registered with the Taiwanese authorities, as is a combination vaccine for PRRS and PCV2. At the R&D stage, Reber is working on vaccines for classical swine fever, porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, foot-and-mouth disease and enzootic pneumonia, as well as other combination vaccines.

Dr Chang said Reber is aiming to secure approval and distribution of its vaccines in Russia, South Korea, China, Thailand and the Philippines, as well as other Asian markets.

According to Reber, in field trials, the PRRS vaccine was shown to be safe and effective. The studies showed: a significant reduction of abortion rate, stillbirth and reductive failure caused by PRRS; improvements in livability at birth, the average litter size, litter weight of new-born piglets; decrease in levels and duration of viremia; reduction of PRRS-induced lung lesions; and improvement of the growth performance.