

Press release

## Novasep and Handl Therapeutics announce signature of a gene therapy product development and manufacturing agreement

This agreement covers the development and manufacturing of an Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) based gene therapy drug candidate for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases

**Lyon, November 2, 2020 - Novasep**, a leading supplier of services and technologies for the life sciences industry, and **Handl Therapeutics (handltherapeutics.com)**, a rapidly growing and transformative gene therapy company, today announced the signature of an agreement for the development and manufacturing of an AAV-based gene therapy drug candidate for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

Handl Therapeutics is developing multiple therapeutic adeno associated virus (AAV) based programs in collaboration with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, with the Center for Applied Medical Research (CIMA) of the University of Navarra, Spain, and with the Biomedical Neuroscience Institute (BNI) of the University of Chile. The company is currently conducting IND-enabling preclinical studies.

Under the terms of the agreement, Novasep will develop and manufacture AAV vectors designed for these programs and will supply drug substance and drug product to support Handl Therapeutics' preclinical and clinical studies.

"We are excited to engage with Novasep to develop GMP manufacture capabilities for our novel gene therapies and are happy to have identified an outstanding partner right on our doorstep here in Belgium" said **Michael Linden, Co-founder and head of Research and Development at Handl Therapeutics**

"We are delighted to support Handl Therapeutics in the development of its innovative gene therapy drug candidate to treat neurodegenerative diseases. This new agreement recognizes Novasep's expertise in the field of viral vectors and will contribute to the important development of the cell and gene therapy market in Belgium" said **Cedric Volanti, Novasep's President of Biopharma Solutions**.

"This new project is yet another step for Novasep to deliver its Rise-2 growth strategy, and shows our commitment to continue delivering customer's solution expanding our biopharmaceuticals franchise" adds **Michel Spagnol, Chairman & CEO of Novasep Group**

### About Handl Therapeutics

Handl Therapeutics was founded in 2019 and is based at the Bio-Incubator in Leuven, Belgium. Handl Therapeutics is a rapidly growing and transformative gene therapy company developing a new generation of gene therapy technologies, designed to produce superior therapeutic programs for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

<https://www.handltherapeutics.com/>

### About Novasep

Novasep provides cost-effective and sustainable manufacturing solutions for the life sciences industries.

For 20 years, Novasep has acquired experience in developing and manufacturing a wide range of viral vectors through its sites in Belgium: AAV, Adenovirus, Lentivirus, HSV, VEEV, VSV..., for cell & gene therapy, immunotherapy, vaccination and other therapies from process development to cGMP production.

Novasep also offers Fill & Finish services for viral vectors, attenuated and live viruses, mAbs, plasmids and other biologics, from formulation to packaging.

As part of its growth strategy Rise-2, Novasep recently unveiled a new facility, Senrise-IV, dedicated to the commercial production of viral vectors which has been completed last year by Senefill, a new Fill & Finish commercial facility for aseptic operations. Both facilities located in Seneffe, Belgium, will contribute to the success of biopharmaceuticals' projects.

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

### Contact

#### Novasep

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