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BIOPORT SIGNS CONTRACT WITH PENTAGON TO SUPPLY ANTHRAX VACCINE

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Lansing, MI--BioPort Corporation today announced that the Lansing-based manufacturer of the world's only FDA-licensed anthrax vaccine has entered into a three-year contract to continue supplying the vaccine to the Pentagon.

"This contract demonstrates the Pentagon's faith in our company and underscores the importance of the vaccine as the centerpiece of protection against a bioterrorist attack," BioPort President Bob Kramer said.

The \$245-million contract for anthrax vaccine doses was awarded to BioPort on December 31, 2003. The contract allows the Pentagon flexibility in the number of doses to be delivered, giving the option to increase the number over the three years.

"Federal officials recently re-stated their concerns about the level of vulnerability in the event of a massive airborne anthrax attack. This contract allows other agencies such as Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and the State Department to obtain BioThraxTM through the Defense Department," Kramer said.

Kramer also pointed out that the contract comes on the heels of the FDA ruling that the use of the vaccine for inhalational anthrax is not "experimental" and is "safe and effective." The FDA action followed District Court Judge Emmit Sullivan's recent injunction against the Pentagon, which claimed the military's immunization program was illegal.

"This contract demonstrates that the parties involved are confident that recent legal actions will not, in the long run, interfere with the Pentagon's ability to immunize U.S. service members from deadly anthrax," Kramer said.

On Wednesday, Judge Sullivan granted a Justice Department motion to allow vaccinations to continue for all but six plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Following that court action, the Pentagon indicated vaccinations would resume immediately.