

# Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization

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## SPECIALIZATION

For the past twelve years, the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) has been serving the Canadian livestock and poultry industries by conducting applied research on the prevention and control of common infectious diseases in cattle, swine and poultry.

## THE COMPANY

Canadian livestock operators and veterinarians identified the need for an organization whose research programmes would be responsive to the needs of livestock and poultry industries. Such a research laboratory would also act as the bridge between basic scientific discoveries in the laboratory and their application on the farm.

The Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations (Calgary, Alberta), through the Science Council of Canada, responded to this need and investigated such a research facility. In September, 1975, the Devonian Group signed an agreement with the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan to establish VIDO.

Located at Innovation Place at the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), VIDO's 36,000 square foot facility contains offices, laboratories, a media preparation area, specialized animal isolation rooms and germ-free isolation units. Over one-half of the building space is devoted to the unique and specialized animal isolation facilities. These provide VIDO with the flexibility and containment that is integral to infectious disease research of food animals. VIDO also has access to a feedlot facility for field trials.

In 1983, VIDO joined with the University of Saskatchewan in establishing Biostar Inc. Biostar is a federally incorporated company that acts as VIDO's commercial agent in facilitating the development and marketing of VIDO's technologies and products. For example, Biostar was responsible for an agreement with Langford Laboratories Ltd. (Guelph, Ontario) to commercialize Ecolan, an *E. coli* subunit vaccine for calf scours. Biostar has also identified commercial opportunities in related areas such as obtaining contracts with multinational biological production companies for contract research and product testing.

## ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

VIDO is a unique and innovative Canadian research and development organization with a proven track record. In 1975, VIDO identified bovine neonatal diarrhea or "calf scours" as the organization's initial research target. In 1978, VIDO's efforts culminated in a major scientific breakthrough with the discovery of VICOGEN, the world's first, safe and effective vaccine for the prevention of enteropathogenic *E. coli* calf scours.

VIDO has made several other noteworthy accomplishments in diverse areas of activity, including the following:

- a) world class vaccines;
- b) monoclonal antibodies;
- c) preventive medicine information;
- d) housing design;
- e) product testing;
- f) international symposia;
- g) technology transfer to the livestock industry;
- h) technology transfer to the commercial sector.

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

VIDO's VICOGEN vaccine has been successfully marketed (by Connaught Laboratories Ltd., Toronto, Ontario) in several countries including the United States, Mexico, Brazil and Israel. In addition, the organization holds international symposia on such topics as respiratory diseases of cattle and pigs and neonatal diarrhea.

## INFORMATION

If you would like additional information on VIDO, please contact:

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