

## **The active ingredient alone does not solve the problem...**

At present, hopes for a sustainable solution to the corona crisis rest on quickly finding suitable active ingredients for the treatment of patients and for preventative vaccination. However, it must also be possible to produce these active ingredients in the shortest possible time. Using traditional methods, this process once again takes many months. RCPE has developed high-speed manufacturing capabilities, through which the production of new active ingredients can be massively accelerated.

Graz, April 3, 2020 - "RCPE has the technology that enables the production of an active ingredient quickly and in large quantities. In addition to the research and development pilot plant already in operation at RCPE's site in Graz, we are now also planning the construction of a GMP-compliant production facility," reports Prof. Johannes Khinast, professor at the Graz University of Technology, CEO and scientific director of the K1 research centre, RCPE.

"Many studies are currently being conducted worldwide on the basis of existing compounds or known active ingredients that are believed to help against the coronavirus, such as Remdesivir, Faviparivir, Chloroquine, Hydroxychloroquine, Camostat Mesylate and others. As soon as a suitable active ingredient is found, there will be an enormous need to manufacture the therapies and distribute them to all people. This means that many millions of doses, for millions of affected people in Europe and worldwide, will have to be produced in a very short time. With the advanced high-speed technology we have developed, which is based on continuous manufacturing processes, production can be streamlined and massively accelerated," reports Johannes Khinast.

### **Production of "emergency medication" within the shortest time**

The internationally leading pharmaceutical production experts Prof. Khinast and Prof. C. Oliver Kappe, professor at the University of Graz and scientific director of the CC FLOW division at RCPE, refer to the more than six-year development period which has now made it possible to establish a GMP-compliant production facility before the end of this year. Prof. Kappe stated, "We are extremely flexible. Even the combination of active ingredient synthesis and the subsequent production steps would be united at one location. Using this new production facility, we would not only be able to make a significant contribution to overcoming the corona crisis, but also be well prepared for possible future epidemics." RCPE is therefore proposing the establishment of "an Austrian pharmaceutical production company that can be used exclusively for the rapid production of large quantities of emergency medication. This is something that is not available anywhere else in the public domain."

### **Investment volume: 30 to 35 million Euros**

A production centre of this kind can be implemented with a budget of 30 to 35 million Euros in a period of seven to nine months, providing up to two million patients with appropriate medication. "That's why it is important to start development immediately, so that we can be ready as soon as possible," says Johannes Khinast, reporting on the first implementation steps. Discussions with RCPE partners, the Federal Government, State and the EU are proceeding promisingly.

Khinast and Kappe concluded, "We have the capacity and manpower to implement all of this." The new infrastructure will have a completely neutral structure, supporting the evaluation of all available active ingredients, independently of the pharmaceutical companies who create them.

Prof. C. Oliver Kappe is a leading international researcher and works, among others, for and with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Prof. Johannes Khinast is a consultant to international pharmaceutical companies and one of the most established researchers worldwide in his field.



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Johannes Khinast, Professor at TU Graz and CEO/Scientific Director of RCPE  
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Univ.-Prof. Dr. C. Oliver Kappe, Professor at University of Graz and Scientific Director of CC FLOW (RCPE)  
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## TAGS

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RCPE's services encompass the entire value chain of pharmaceutical product development: continuous API synthesis, advanced formulations, next-generation manufacturing, and also device design and optimisation.

As a non-profit, private company owned by Graz University of Technology (65%), University of Graz (20%) and JOANNEUM RESEARCH Forschungsgesellschaft mbH (15%), we link outstanding science, application and industry in a business-oriented approach.

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