

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Philip Connolly  
Merial Animal Health, CM19 5TG, U.K.  
01279 775846 07917 686600 [philip.connolly@merial.com](mailto:philip.connolly@merial.com)

## **First delivery of Merial bluetongue vaccine**

**Harlow, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

Merial Animal Health is pleased to announce the first delivery of its bluetongue vaccine, BTVPUR™ AISap, in the UK. The shipment of just over 2 million doses is the first of several batches scheduled over the summer months and forms part of Merial's commitment to Defra to supply 13 million doses for England and Wales.

Despite bluetongue disease not yet re-emerging in the UK this year, Merial strongly encourages farmers to protect their livestock from this potentially debilitating disease. Said Head of Production Animal Business, Graham Davenport: "Our experience in continental Europe over the past four years has shown just how imperative vaccination is for vets and farmers in controlling this disease in the field. Recent outbreaks in France are a reminder that there is no room for complacency. Over the past few weeks we have been working closely with the members of JAB (Joint Action against Bluetongue) and strongly advocate that farmers should act on their advice: *Don't hesitate, vaccinate.*"

Information for veterinary professionals and livestock owners on BTVPUR AISap can be found at [www.merial.co.uk](http://www.merial.co.uk). Veterinary surgeons can also obtain information by calling 0800 592699 or emailing [ukbluetongue@merial.com](mailto:ukbluetongue@merial.com).

### **About Merial**

Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and performance of a wide range of animals. Merial employs more than 5000 people and operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Its 2007 sales were nearly \$2.5 billion. Merial Limited is a joint venture between Merck & Co., Inc. and sanofi-aventis. For more information, please see [www.merial.com](http://www.merial.com)

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