

Belgian virtual reality accelerates the production of Covid-19 vaccine

Brussels, December 3, 2020 - To produce the Covid-19 vaccine in large quantities, the consortium led by the Jenner Institute at Oxford University is using virtual reality. By making its web platform available, the Belgian company OUAT! is helping to create a perfect replica, a digital twin of the vaccine production chain that will allow operators to be trained more quickly around the world.

One of the stakes in the race for the Covid-19 vaccine is to optimize the training time of the operators to accelerate the effective start of their activities in the new production units. Thanks to the creation of a digital twin of the production areas, the teams can immerse themselves in virtual reality inside the production unit and familiarize themselves with their new working environment. They discover the equipment, learn how to handle it and master precise gestures.

To create this exact virtual replica of the vaccine production area, Pall Biotech (equipment supplier) and Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGTC - Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization), two consortium partners, are using technology from the Belgian company OUAT! which specializes in life sciences. The web platform - HakoBio - developed by OUAT! contains a database of more than 1000 3D equipment, including the Pall equipment for vaccine production. It allowed the consortium partners to easily and quickly build the 3D digital twin of their production unit.

OUAT! is also in charge of developing virtual reality training for future production teams. These experiments allow operators to manipulate the equipment by following a scenario and predefined actions. This way, the user is at the center of the learning path, from the discovery of the process to the mastery of the operational procedures.

Nicolas Vertommen, co-founder of OUAT! confirms: "New technologies such as our web platform, coupled with virtual reality, mean that bioproduction players can immerse themselves in any production environment and practice on the equipment to be operational more quickly. The digital twin is an asset for front-line workers, providing them with reassuringly intuitive solutions. In the specific case of the pandemic vaccine, the digital twin will accelerate the international deployment of production units".

While the digital twin technique accelerates the design of the manufacturing process and ensures high-quality, large-scale production in record time, it also facilitates technology transfer. Because in such a context, knowledge sharing is essential to deploy the Covid-19 solution worldwide as quickly as possible.

About OUAT!

OUAT! aims to facilitate the digital transformation of the life sciences industry. In increasingly intelligent and connected factories, OUAT! enables the men and women of the biopharmaceutical industry to achieve operational excellence using virtual reality technologies.

HakoBio, the intuitive 3D platform of OUAT! enables to create and operate the digital twin of a factory and to achieve operational excellence throughout its life cycle. Dedicated to the biopharmaceutical industry, this platform, which already contains a database of more than 1000 specific equipments, brings a gain in time and efficiency in the development of a production chain. It is used for planning and visual simulation of processes, for immersive learning and for interactive, simplified and centralized data management.

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www.ouat.eu

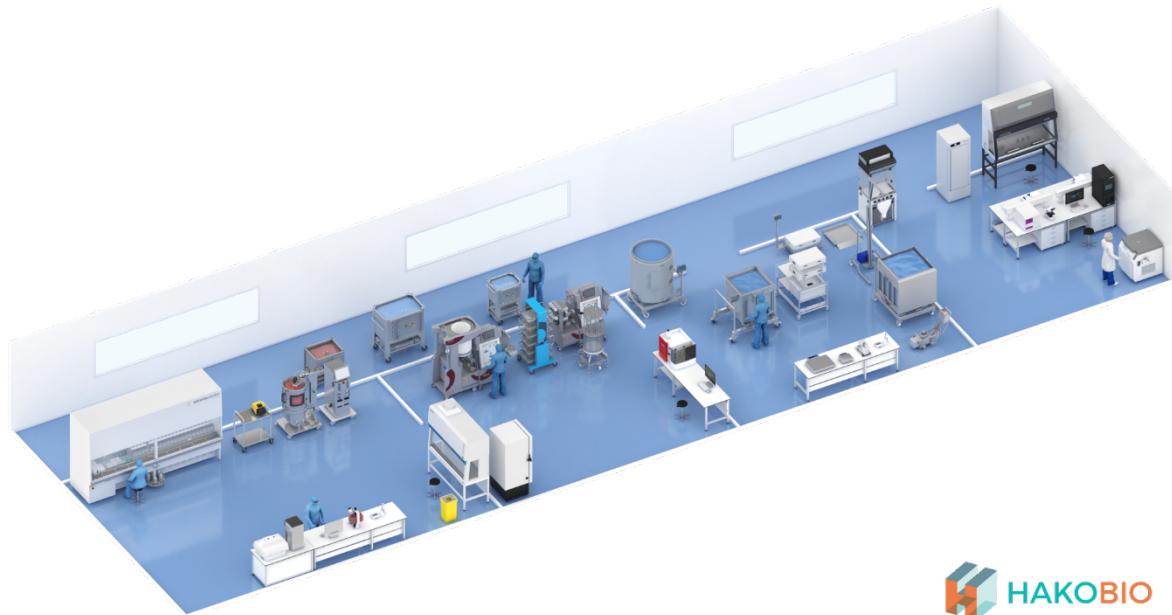
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live sciences



 HAKOBIO

Figure 1 – Image used for illustrative purposes only



Figure 2 – Image taken from virtual learning experience