

Combining established and novel technologies

RENTSCHLER BIOPHARMA Last year, Rentschler Biopharma SE formed a strategic alliance with formulation specialist Leukocare AG. European Biotechnology spoke with Federico Pollano about the impact Leukocare's SPS® technology will have on the market and how Rentschler Biopharma combines tried-and-tested technologies with new innovations to lead the CDMO market.

EuroBiotech Rentschler Biopharma has been investing in new services. Have you seen initial impacts from the recent strategic amendments in formulation technology and fill and finish?

Pollano *The importance of formulation of protein and antibody drugs is currently being underestimated. Last year, we partnered with Leukocare to complement our capabilities in formulation development. Particularly in the US, we have won new customers, who want to replace the standard formulation of their compound with features that extend the unique selling proposition of the molecule. Leukocare's SPS® technology improves antibody drugs' stability at temperatures above the freezing point – up to room temperature. You can imagine what impact this may have – not only on logistics but also on production and purification. The platform comes with a tool that allows in silico modeling of different formulation options for a specific molecule. The Rentschler family also invested into a fill and finish facility, which will become operational this summer. These are two examples of how we complement our portfolio as a full-service CDMO with solutions that give our customers a competitive edge.*

EuroBiotech Everyone in the CDMO field is talking about time-to-market. How does Rentschler Biopharma handle established vs novel technologies to ensure timely delivery?

Pollano *Based on our 40 years' experience in all facets of biomanufacturing, we tend to be very conservative when we make a*



FEDERICO POLLANO is Senior Vice President for Business Development and joined Rentschler Biopharma SE from Polpharma Biologics, where he was Global Director Contract Manufacturing and Business Development. Pollano has an industry track record of more than 25 years, including senior management positions at Richter-Helm Biotec and Helm Pharmaceuticals.

promise, such as bringing customers from zero to Phase I in 12 months. In our view, quality, scalability, and a robust process are more important than speed. Don't get me wrong; we are capable of delivering rapid results, but before we promise to do so, we discuss the imma-

nent risks, potential benefits, and impacts with our customers to find the best solution.

EuroBiotech Rentschler Biopharma offers both disposable and stainless steel equipment. Which do you prefer?

Pollano *It depends upon a customer's needs. Rentschler Biopharma has both technologies in operation. In the 2010s, we pioneered single-use manufacturing – we were among the first adopters in the CDMO business. In fact, 120 of the 350 batches Rentschler Biopharma has conducted since 2000 were single-use. While 1000l single-use bioreactors are best suited for clinical trial supply, our twin 3,000l stainless steel and 2,000l single-use bioreactors are ideally suited for mid-scale commercial supply – that is in total, up to 100,000l annually. A recent study conducted by Bioprocess Technical Consultants says that two-thirds of all commercial processes are feasible in mid-scale bioreactors up to 5000l.*

EuroBiotech At Swiss Biotech Day, Rentschler Biopharma announced its business strategy for 2025. Could you tell us a bit about your plans?

Pollano *We want to reinforce our position as a technology leader, expanding into regions where we have not been very active in the past, including Asia. We will continue using our tried-and-tested technologies but also broaden our knowledge of molecular entities, e.g. bi-specific antibodies, as well as new trends and therapeutic modalities.*

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