



Pharmaceutical company in Malmö is fighting HIV and unwanted pregnancies

The financial crisis has struck many areas of the pharmaceutical industry very hard. Lay offs, reduction in orders and lower level of research and development activities have been part of business in the recent period. For QPharma in Malmö the situation has been different. This is a company growing and now preparing to expand its manufacturing capacity in southern Sweden. And the local community will benefit from this.

- Right now we are preparing an expansion of our manufacturing facilities here in Malmö, as we need more and larger areas. Further, we will be hiring more staff for both manufacturing and development in near future, says managing director Kenneth Stokholm of QPharma.

QPharma expects to increase the number of personnel by 20-30 % before long. In the process QPharma has had a good dialog with Malmö City Planning regarding the expansion.

- Malmö city has been very open and constructive towards our plans to expand manufacturing and to create more attractive work positions. The plans to develop the Medical Malmö and to contribute to the development of the local areas have been well supported, says Kenneth Stokholm.

The background for the expansion is a very successful manufacturing of vaginal rings containing different pharmaceutical ingredients suited for women's health. QPharma has already a vaginal ring in commercial manufacturing for hormonal replacement therapy.

The company is now getting ready to launch a fight against HIV. QPharma's American partner, International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), is a non-profit organisation. They are preparing the final clinical trials with an effective HIV preventive medicine. If these trials are successful, QPharma will be busy producing HIV vaginal rings for the global market.

- The need for preventive treatment with HIV medicine is huge, especially among the poorest people in the world. More than 33 million people live with AIDS or HIV, and the disease is spreading rapidly. For that reason it is extremely important to develop and manufacture a preventive HIV medicine. It would be great if these activities would take place here in Malmö and that we would manufacture the rings for the entire world. We share that ambition with the politicians in Malmö, says Kenneth Stokholm.

QPharma's other partner, the Population Council, is almost ready with a vaginal ring for contraception. The project is in final phase before being submitted to the American authorities for approval.

- This is an invention with a great potential. The ring can contribute significantly to some of the problems of over population, dangerous abortions and extreme poverty facing people in the developing world, says Kenneth Stokholm.

The target for QPharma longer term is to manufacture one vaginal ring, containing pharmaceutical ingredients for both contraception and protection from HIV.

- It would be fantastic if a combined product could prevent unwanted pregnancies and reduce the spread of the HIV epidemic, says the managing director.

The various vaginal rings against unwanted pregnancy and protection from HIV may also be available in the developed world. They may be sold at a higher price compared to the developing world countries.

- When we sell products for the developing countries, we always negotiate special rates. In this way, it will be possible for charity organisations and governments to purchase the products and the medicine will be accessible to people in need, says Kenneth Stokholm.

QPharma hopes to have a commercial manufacturing of HIV vaginal rings by year 2015.

Yderligere oplysninger: VD Kenneth Stokholm, QPharma: +46 (0)40 36 18 00 (Office)/+46 (0)766 33 78 82 (Mobile)
Email: Kenneth.Stokholm@qpharma.se www.qpharma.se