

## EasyCOV: French regulator gives its approval

### Another step forward in the wide-scale deployment of the saliva-based test in France and on international markets

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, France's Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS) issued a favourable opinion on the usage and reimbursement of the EasyCOV test on symptomatic patients for whom nasal swabbing is impossible or difficult to perform. The consortium behind the test, comprising the biotech company SKILLCELL (ALCEN Group), the laboratory SYS2DIAG (CNRS/ALCEN) and the company VOGO, are pleased with these initial indications which could be further expanded.

**Given this positive decision, EasyCOV is now fully recognised as a relevant tool in strategies to diagnose and detect COVID-19. This new milestone will help accelerate the commercial roll-out of the test in France and on international markets.**

Since last March, the Haute Autorité de Santé in France has been carrying out scientific monitoring of tests to diagnose infection with SARS-CoV-2 and continuously assessing the various solutions available. The favourable decision on EasyCOV confirms the benefits of the test in terms of simplicity, speed and efficacy (the Haute Autorité de Santé notice is available [here](#)).

As a reminder, EasyCOV is a viral RNA detection tool that is easier and faster (40 min) than RT-PCR testing. The RT-LAMP technique on which EasyCOV is based makes it possible to amplify viral RNA, then reveal its presence in a saliva sample after heating twice at constant temperatures. The results are analysed via a digital application that employs colorimetric reading.

#### Effectiveness confirmed by clinical trial results

The effectiveness of this rapid saliva-based test was just confirmed with the conclusion of the clinical trial led by the teams of the Montpellier University Hospital and the Sys2diag laboratory. Thus, when screening symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, EasyCOV was proven effective (86 % sensitivity and 99 % specificity) at detecting the virus responsible for COVID-19.

The study results are available here: [CP-easycov301120.pdf \(cnrs.fr\)](#)

#### A launchpad for commercial roll-out in France and on international markets

Driven by the go-ahead from the French regulator, SKILLCELL and VOGO will now be able to ramp up the commercial roll-out of EasyCOV in France, with an emphasis on the markets where the test's advantages are most compelling: nursing homes, screening events in the field requiring high repetitiveness (sport events in particular), and so on.

The recognition of the test's suitability by the French regulatory authority will also boost commercial expansion outside France, especially in Africa and south-east Asia where the HAS's ruling was eagerly awaited.

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## About SKILLCELL

An ALCEN group subsidiary. SkillCell develops in-field diagnostic tests using its simplicity-centred approach: tests that must be able to be used by anybody, anywhere and at any time. Founded in Guadeloupe in 2017, the company has offices in Jarry (Guadeloupe), Paris and Montpellier. The SkillCell team brings together scientific experts and seasoned manufacturers to find solutions to medical and societal diagnostic testing issues by providing relevant, high-quality information that allows users to make well-informed choices with full transparency.

More information at: [www.skillcell-alcen.com](http://www.skillcell-alcen.com)

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## About CNRS

The French National Center for Scientific Research is one of the most recognized and renowned public research institutions in the world. For more than 80 years, it has continued to attract talent at the highest level and to nurture multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research projects at the national, European and international levels. Geared towards the public interest, it contributes to the scientific, economic, social and cultural progress of France. The CNRS is above all 32,000 women and men, more than 1,000 laboratories in partnership with universities and other higher education institutions bringing together more than 120,000 employees and 200 professions that advance knowledge by exploring the living world, matter, the Universe, and the functioning of human societies. The CNRS ensures that this mission is carried out in compliance with ethical rules and with a commitment to professional equality. The close relationship it establishes between its research missions and the transfer of acquired knowledge to the public makes it today a key player in innovation in France and around the world. Partnerships with companies are at the heart of its technology transfer policy, and the start-ups that have emerged from CNRS laboratories bear witness to the economic potential of its research. The CNRS provides also access to research findings and data, and this sharing of knowledge targets many audiences: scientific communities, the media, decision-makers, economic players, and the general public.

For more information: [www.cnrs.fr](http://www.cnrs.fr)

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## About VOGO

VOGO develops, markets and distributes live & replay, audio and video solutions for spectators and professionals in sports arenas. VOGO's disruptive solution for spectators transforms the stadium experience by providing multi-camera content on demand for viewing on tablets and smartphones, irrespective of the number of people connected. In the professional sphere, VOGO's video solution provides analytical and decision-making tools (referee assistance, medical diagnostics, coaching, etc.). The acquisition of Vokkero® in October 2019 enriched this range of video solutions, with the integration

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of a line of audio communications systems that has drawn international recognition not just in in the sporting sphere (more than 20 disciplines) but also in industry, services and healthcare. All of the Group's technologies have patent protection. VOGO is present in France (Montpellier, Paris and Crolles) and in North America, with an office in New York. The Group has been listed on the Euronext Growth stock market since November 2018 (ISIN code: FR0011532225 – ALVGO).

For more information: [www.vogo-group.com](http://www.vogo-group.com)

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