

# First vaccine technology transfer hub identified in South Africa – Key takeaways from WHO announcement on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

## WHO Media briefing on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Through COVAX, WHO announced it is supporting South African consortium to establish first COVID mRNA hub



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
OMS Director General



Cyril Ramaphosa  
South African president



Emmanuel Macron  
French president

## Key takeaways

### South African consortium comprises:



- Afrigen
- Biovac
- A network of universities



### Follows WHO's call for EOI on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- 28 offers received to either provide technology or to host a hub or both



### Tech being identified with 2-pronged approach

- "Late-stage" tech: fast & secured option (9-12 months) but with potential constraints
- "Early-stage" tech: lengthier & more uncertain, but offering broad scope / high program suitability



### Next steps

- Confirm technology donor
- Implement (governance, funding, etc.)
- Identify subsequent hubs, launch of EOI calls for other techs and recipients



# Critical next steps following SA mRNA hub announcement



## Implement South African proposal

- Set up dedicated cross-working group team within WS3 / South African consortium
- Continue discussions on hub design (governance, regulatory, funding, etc.)
- Prepare (virtual) site visit Mid-July



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## Select technology for mRNA hub

- Questionnaires shared & received - under review with independent committee
- Select technology donor with 2-pronged strategy: pro-active reach out to late stage tech holders while progressing with earlier stage tech holders



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## Identify other potential hub(s)

- Finalize detailed due diligence to assess opportunity of additional mRNA hub(s)
- Assess opportunity & initiate EOI for other technologies



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# mRNA tech | For South Africa hub, WS3 is leading a 2-pronged strategy to select tech partner

Discussions being led with potential tech partners with a 2-pronged strategy:

- **Option 1 - "Late-stage" tech:** fast & secured option but with potential geographical constraints / lower programmatic suitability
- **Option 2 - "Early-stage" tech:** lengthier & more uncertain option, but offering broad scope / high programmatic suitability

Both options present pros & cons and could be concomitantly implemented within South Africa

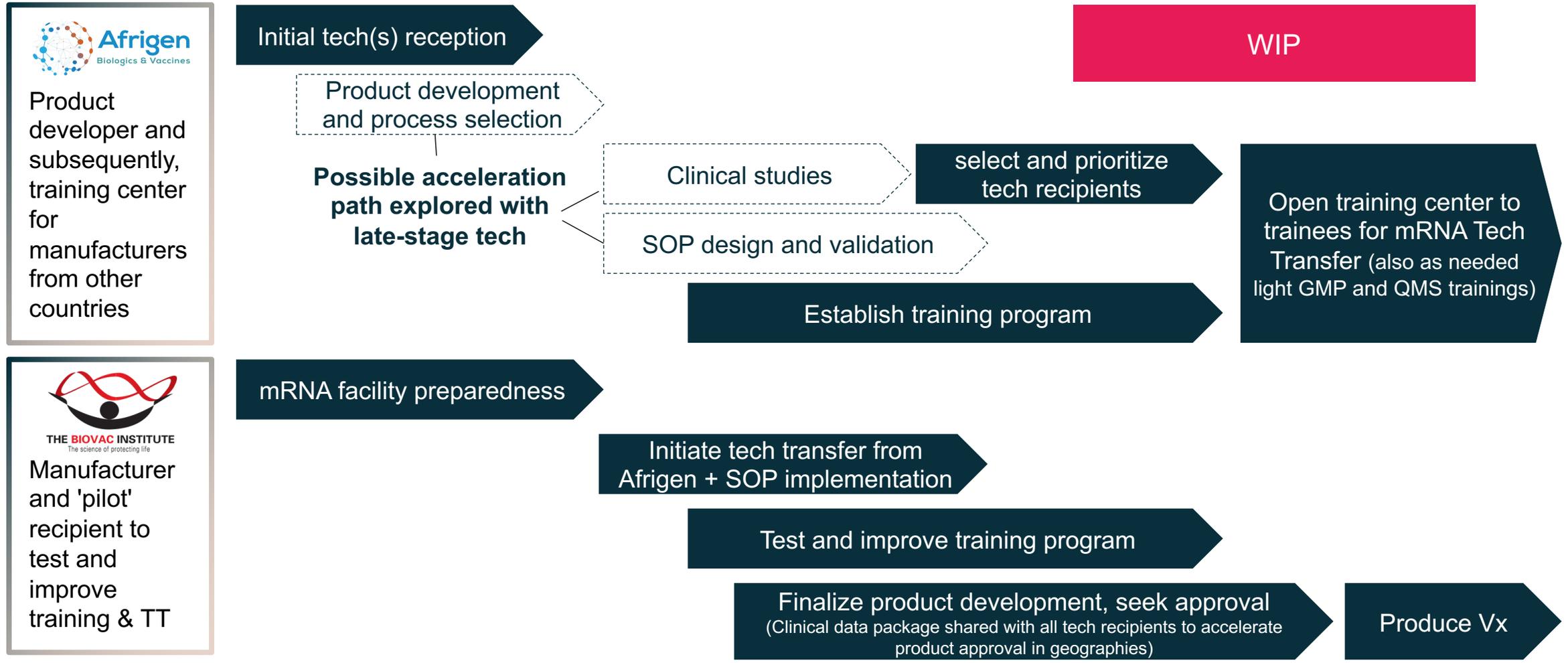


	"Late-stage" tech	"Early stage" tech
Timeline before 1 <sup>st</sup> vaccine prod.	+ 9-12 months (F&F)	- 24-48 months
Efficiency	+ Proven	- Uncertain (e.g., Curevac)
Programmatic suitability	- Ultra-cold chain required to date	+ Thermostability at higher temperature and lower COGS (TBC)
Access & application	- Expected limited access, limited application beyond COVID & constraints for recipients	+ Open access & freedom to operate

# Zoom | Short- and medium-term SA hub activities

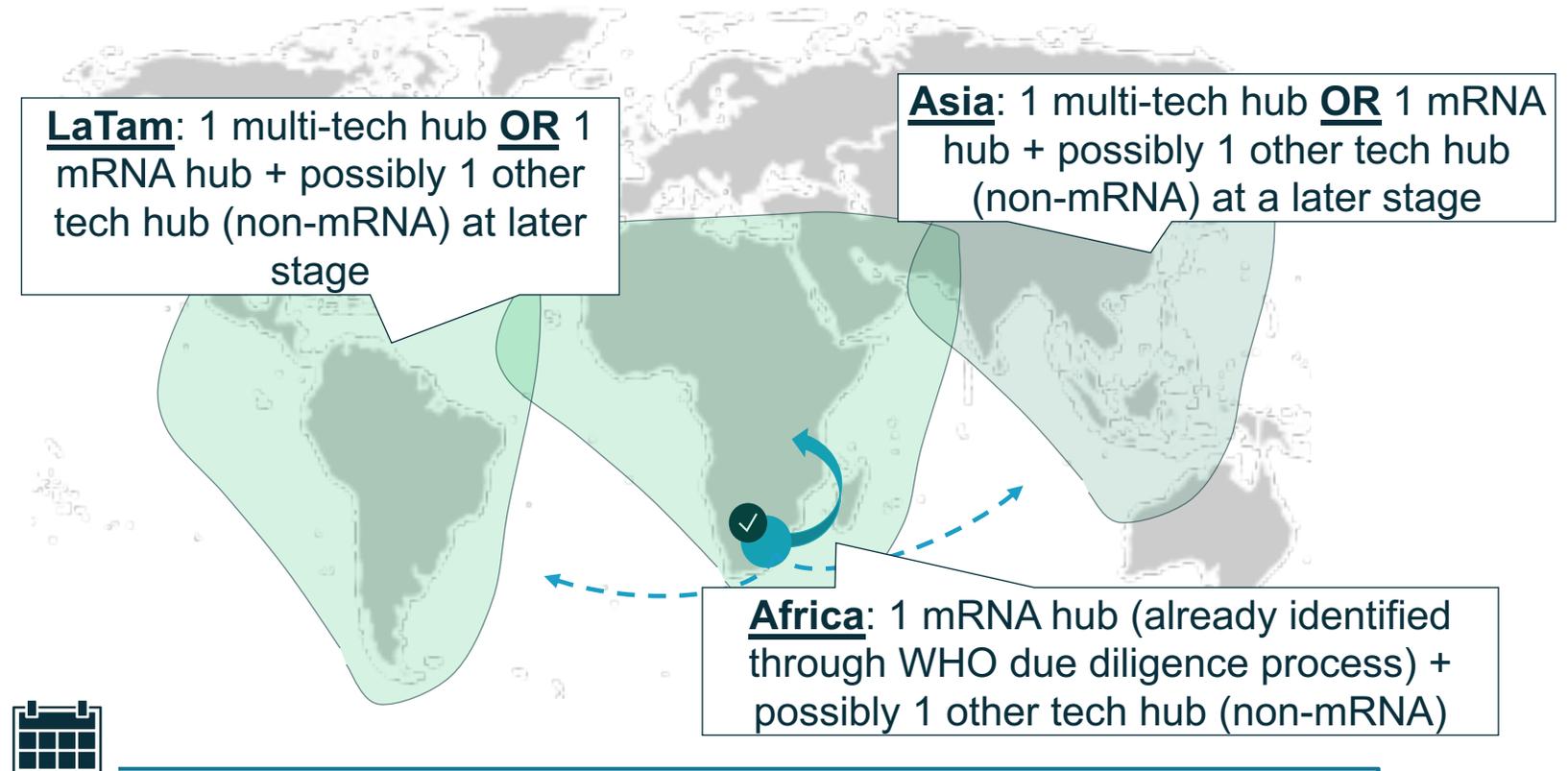
## (Under discussion with hub consortium and Advisory Group)

Hub is comprised of two main entities supported by academic partners



# SA hub is the first step of an equitable, consistent & sustainable hubs / recipients network

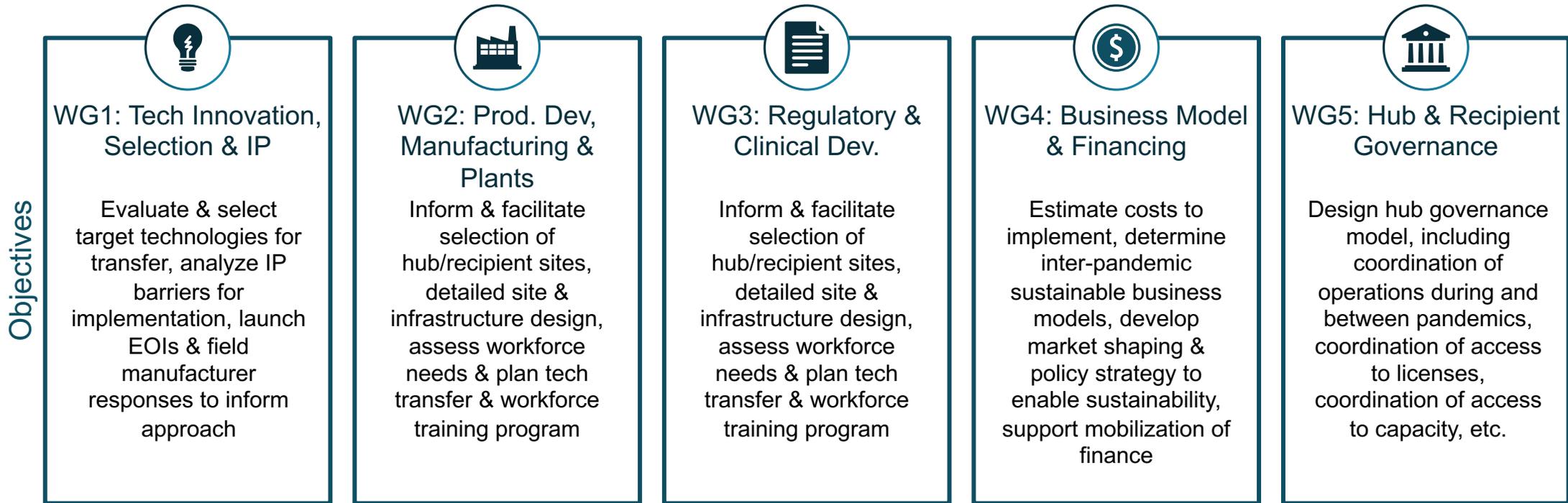
Proposed network could include additional hubs (3 to 6 in total), ensuring global coverage and training for recipients with different degrees of support



- Q3 2021: Tech selection for mRNA hub
- Q3/Q4 2021: Other mRNA hubs / beginning of recipients selection
- Q3/Q4 2021: Other tech hub assessment & selection

# Deep-dive: WS3 has been structured around five Working Groups

## Workstream 3



### Technical Advisory Panel

Group of working group participants with expertise across topics areas (from industry, academia, etc.) who will review workstream proposals and provide input and recommendations to shape final solution