



# Biotech: Independent and innovative

For the Italian biotech company ReiThera srl, the winds of change are blowing strongly. Founded 14 years ago, the group was acquired in 2013 by a large pharmaceutical concern, for which it subsequently operated exclusively. In 2019, ReiThera gained its independence and is offering new clients access to its state-of-the-art facilities.

Established as Okairos in 2005, the company's name was changed to ReiThera in 2014 but it retained the extensive knowledge and experience of the original firm. ReiThera specializes in developing innovative biotechnology in the field of vaccines and advanced therapies. "In contrast to the classic vaccine approach based on

production suites, a 170 m<sup>2</sup> quality control laboratory, and over 700 m<sup>2</sup> of GMP and research support service space, staffed by more than 50 highly competent and experienced employees. This facility is central to ReiThera's new business model. "This year, we became independent, and opened up our laboratories and facilities to

lation of biopharmaceutical products from basic science to early clinical evaluation in humans."

With the market in a sustained period of growth, demand for the services offered by ReiThera is huge, and production centers for such viral vectors are scarce. "Clients can rely on us for innovative and continually improved processes," the CEO sums up. "We have extensive experience, and understand what can be done better. Our immediate priority is to sustain our business, offering our services to a broader customer base and to seek for partnerships to quickly translate to the clinic innovative advanced therapies."

## Our state-of-the-art GMP facility is central to our new business model.

induction of antibodies using recombinant proteins, we developed a technology based on the manipulation of viruses to also induce T lymphocytes which are crucial for fighting infected cells," says CEO Antonella Folgori PhD, who was one of the original founders of Okairos. The organization has, over the years, successfully developed candidate vaccines for malaria, hepatitis C, RSV, ebola and other infectious diseases.

ReiThera is particularly proud of its Rome-based Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility, which consists of 870 m<sup>2</sup> cGMP

new clients," explains Ms. Folgori. "They have access to our expertise in viral vector engineering, process development and GMP manufacturing for their bio-pharmaceutical products." The company is also planning to enter new areas of specialism, for example gene therapy expanding the portfolio of viral vector technologies. "Approaching clinical studies, safety is the number one priority. The viruses we use have all been manipulated so that they are no longer dangerous," stresses Ms. Folgori. "Capitalizing on consolidated experience while developing innovative processes we can support rapid trans-



The newly independent ReiThera is offering clients the use of its GMP facilities as well as the benefit of its vast experience in biotechnology



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