

Antibody Innovators Secure Success

Polyclonal antibodies are a crucial part of cell biology research, but finding the best possible source of these is down to the team from SICGEN Antibodies. Their work is built on a more rural ecosystem and has brought the team incredible success. In the Global Excellence Awards 2022 from GHP, the team were named Best Antibody Development and Production Company, 2022 – Portugal. We take a closer look to discover why.

Founded in 2009 as a spin-off from the University of Coimbra, SICGEN Antibodies has built a name for itself over the years as a leading provider of polyclonal antibodies. Based in a small village in the district of Coimbra, it sets itself apart by being part clinical laboratory and part animal house, leveraging the capacity for the production of hundreds of antibodies raised in goats every year.

The approach taken by the team takes advantage of a more rural ecosystem, providing a long-term solution when it comes to producing polyclonal antibodies and antibody-related products and services of the highest quality and at competitive prices. Over the years, the team have been proud to maintain their high standards and are now well on the way to becoming a global producer of these products.

Since first opening its doors, SICGEN Antibodies has been in high demand. Universities, research institutes, pharmaceutical manufacturers and biotechnology distributors worldwide, but primarily within North America, Europe and the Far East, have turned to the team to secure success. Many companies offer antibodies, but few of these are based in Europe. Even fewer offer the same quality of product at such a competitive price.

The growth of SICGEN Antibodies, therefore, has relied on the various catalogues produced by the team, and by their distributors. The success of this approach can clearly be seen in the way that the team has continued to grow and expand. As more researchers use SICGEN Antibodies products, the more their work appears in peer-reviewed scientific papers. As such, there is no real need to directly search for customers who are looking for polyclonal antibodies. Those who need these products often find SICGEN Antibodies all by themselves.

The evolution of need for products from SICGEN Antibodies has been easily anticipated by the team because the founders come from academia. This is allowed the team to help identify and focus our production of antibodies that were in demand. It also created the ability to anticipate how some scientific areas were likely to evolve and what would be their needs in terms of antibodies. By focusing on those products, the SICGEN Antibodies team gained a competitive advantage and an opportunity in a very competitive market.

Nowhere has this flexibility been better shown than in the team's maneuvers through the COVID-19 pandemic. From the beginning

of the crisis through to the end of 2021, the team were focused on the production of production of antibodies against proteins of SARS-CoV-2 that were subsequently used on research on the virus. The conversion of the team's production platform to the manufacture of SARS-CoV-2 products was achieved in very little time, with the support of a grant financed by the Portugal 2020 - I&D COVID19.



Looking ahead, the team intend to continue increasing the number of antibodies available in their catalogue of products, as well as better characterising the ones already available. They also plan to increase the number of conjugated antibodies with fluorescent molecules. These modified antibodies are extremely important as they allow speeding up experiments and are therefore highly sought after by researchers.

It's clear the growth of SICGEN Antibodies is well on the way, and the team's path to success is already set. Their success is something to be celebrated, drawing on intimate knowledge of the sector both technically and commercially. In this rapidly moving field, it takes ingenuity and determination to stay ahead of the crowd. We cannot wait to see what this team does next.

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