

Portugal

ANTIBODY PRODUCTION COMPANY OF THE YEAR

SICGEN Antibodies

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Based in Coimbra, SICGEN Antibodies is a biotechnology company specialising in the development, production, and marketing of polyclonal antibodies for the purposes of cell biology research. Established in 2009, CEO Dr José Ramalho co-founded the company along with two others, starting his research at the University of Coimbra before moving it to the NOVA University of Lisbon later that year. Further investment arrived in 2017, from the UK, but SICGEN's Production Unit remains in the Coimbra region, seamlessly integrated into a rural part of Portugal. The unit contains a lab space and an animal house, with the capacity to produce hundreds of antibodies every year – primarily raised from goats.

SICGEN takes full-advantage of the world's cutting-edge technology, and is committed to becoming a global producer of polyclonal antibodies of the highest quality, and establishing them competitively in the market. Much of the company's work has featured in life science research and related publications, including Nature, Cell, and Science. As an example, research has been published regarding antibodies against fluorescent proteins such as GFP, mCherry, tdTomato. The company's clients come in the form of various institutions around the globe, including major universities, research institutions, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and biotechnology companies, and SICGEN's main markets are North America, Europe, and the Far East. As a business, it continues to innovate and develop its research, extending its product line.



By 2020, SICGEN had nearly 300 different products available, with a particular focus on Western Blotting (WB), immunofluorescence (IF), and immunocytochemistry (IHC).

The judging panel was particularly impressed by the company's ability to spot gaps in the world market. The founders of SICGEN Antibodies felt there was room for improvement on the production of high-quality antibodies, which inspired them to begin production. As all of the founders are scientists, identifying the antibodies that were in-demand was much a simpler process. Furthermore, as scientists, they had the ability to accurately predict how science may evolve in the coming years, and what antibodies the sector may need. By focusing on these types of products, SICGEN has developed a significant edge on the competition.