

An Innovative Leader in Polyclonal Antibody Development

Founded in 2008, SICGEN Antibodies has long been considered a leading enterprise on the European landscape, known for best-in-class development, manufacturing, and market penetration for polyclonal antibodies in cell biology research. Following the company's recognition in the Global Excellence Awards 2023 as Portugal's Antibody Development and Production Company of the Year, we spoke with Principal Researcher and Founder Jose Ramalho to find out more about the team's incredible work.

SICGEN Antibodies acts as a crucial accelerator in a space that, despite its constant forward momentum, can seem slow moving in comparison to sister industries that rely on its crucial work and research. Of course, it's a necessary aspect of the industry, as focused as it is on operating within a diligent, regulatory framework. In this, SICGEN Antibodies maintains a benchmark for development and deployment of polyclonal antibodies, setting the pace for others to follow in their footsteps.

But, let's go into more detail on some of the intricacies of the team's work. Jose offers more insight into the foundation of SICGEN Antibodies' expertise: "At a base level, the company develops, produces, and markets polyclonal antibodies that have been successfully used in several life sciences research areas. For example, the antibodies against fluorescent proteins such as GFP, mCherry, and tdTomato have featured in many life science research publications, such as Nature, Cell and Science."

As it stands currently, the company's product line has increased to some 300 products being used predominantly for research purposes. "With a particular focus on western blotting (WB), immunofluorescence (IF), and immunocytochemistry (IHC), although many are also utilized for ELISA, immunoprecipitation, and other biochemical techniques, SICGEN continuously strives to develop new antibody-related products and services for applications in industry and research," Jose adds. "Currently, SICGEN also produces custom polyclonal antibodies for leading national and international institutions, including universities, research institutes, pharmaceutical manufacturers and biotechnology distributors worldwide with its main market in North America, Europe, and Far East."



Putting aside its notable expertise and hard-earned tenure in the industry, Jose firmly believes that SICGEN Antibodies has succeeded through several variables, not least of which is the company's overall ability to meet demand and capitalize on opportunities as they arise. The team have been able to pivot towards meeting the supply of high-quality antibodies, utilizing the team's research and academic background to its advantage.

"As the company was developed from a scientific background, it has helped us to identify and focus our production on antibodies that we knew were in demand by the market. More than that, and perhaps more importantly, was our 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, we gained a competitive advantage and an opportunity in a very competitive market. We always try to take advantage of cutting-edge technologies on the area of antibody production."

"We are a resilient and hard working small team trying to be organized and focused on developing and producing a product of high standards. We are not afraid to study and learn from our competitors and provide a better product for your customers."

Over the last decade, the antibody landscape has changed dramatically on the back of scientific developments, however, there have and will always be notable challenges and obstacles to achieve enduring success. As we come to the close of our conversation with Jose, he spotlights some of the challenges SICGEN Antibodies has faced since its inception. "One of the key challenges has been in achieving manufacturing consistency and quality control. Addressing batch-to-batch variability through standardised manufacturing processes and robust quality control measures/ SICGEN Antibodies can enhance the reliability and reproducibility of antibodies. This can be achieved through stringent quality control testing, documentation, and process optimisation.

"Moreover, we have had to adapt to consistent technological advancements. The use of the latest technological advancements to develop antibodies with improved reproducibility and specificity can also provide new opportunities for innovation. By addressing these challenges and capitalising on opportunities, SICGEN Antibodies enhances the quality and reliability of our products, expands our market reach, and contributes to advancements in scientific research and discovery."

As for the future of the company, SICGEN Antibodies plans to continue on the path it has forged over the last 15 years, as Jose explains in his closing comments. "SICGEN Antibodies plans to continue developing, producing, and marketing some new antibodies in order to fill several antibody market gaps. In addition, we will try to reach new customers in different markets by increasing our distributor channels and implementing our free sample programme."

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