

More Countries Line Up for Russia's Sputnik V Coronavirus Vaccine

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President Vladimir Putin announced the approval of Sputnik V in August before the start of its final clinical trials. **Sergei Ilnitsky / EPA / TASS**

More than 50 countries have requested to buy or localize production of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine as the race for a safe and effective vaccine that could end the deadly pandemic heats up across the globe.

In recent weeks, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) that is marketing Sputnik V has announced plans to sell: 100 million doses to India, 50 million to Brazil, 35 million to Uzbekistan and 32 million to Mexico, as well as 25 million to Nepal and Egypt each.

Here's a look at several other countries that have recently struck deals to conduct trials or produce Sputnik V — or been asked to help in its production:

Hungary

Hungary is set to become the first EU member state to carry out trials of Sputnik V, its

authorities <u>said</u>, with the first samples of the jab expected to arrive from Russia by the end of next week.

South Korea

South Korea's GL Rapha biotechnology firm has signed on to produce over 150 million Sputnik V doses per year, the RDIF <u>said</u>. Production is expected to begin next month and South Koreamade doses will be intended for global distribution.

Venezuela

Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, who is currently visiting Moscow, <u>offered</u> to localize the production of Sputnik V after its Phase 3 trials of 1,500 vaccines and 500 placebos in the Latin American country wrap up.

Turkey

Turkey's health ministry has voiced <u>interest</u> in localizing the production of Sputnik V after trials, according to Russia's Health Ministry.

France?

President Vladimir Putin asked his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron for France's help in producing a coronavirus vaccine in a Nov. 7 phone call, French media <u>reported</u>. Macron was reportedly "evasive" when responding to Putin's request, saying it should first be discussed with the scientific community.

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