

# Scotland to Produce Lifesaving HIV Technology

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NEW YORK, April 4, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Massachusetts-based life science company Daktari Diagnostics Inc. has announced plans to locate its global manufacturing base in Inverness, Scotland, to develop its life-saving HIV blood monitoring technology.

First Minister Alex Salmond will meet with Daktari Chief Executive Bill Rodriguez in New York today as part of his Scotland Week program aimed at encouraging inward investment.

Daktari has been in discussions with Highlands and Islands (HIE) and Scottish Development International (SDI), the country's international economic development organization, about plans to locate the production of its groundbreaking technology in Scotland.

Funding is in place to create 126 jobs, and the company's presence will build on the region's growing expertise in research, development and production in the life sciences sector.

Daktari, which employs 40 staff from its base in Cambridge, Mass., develops diagnostic tests for global health conditions such as HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis. The company's Scottish venture could see mass production of blood testing cartridges required for CD4 cell counting, a process used in HIV monitoring, as early as next year. The system is currently undergoing clinical trials in Africa.

The \$15 million project is being supported by HIE and SDI with a \$3 million public sector package for relocation and workforce training.

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