The Giraffe, ﾟLetﾟs Get It Started
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Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) announced on Wednesday that its coronavirus vaccine candidate had entered the late stage clinical phase, becoming the fourth company to do so in the global search for an effective COVID-19 inoculation.

The drug giant, whose candidate is a late entrant into the Phase 3 stage of development, previously announced its single-dose candidate. However, JNJﾟs treatment differs in key ways from those being developed by the likes of Moderna (MRNA), Pfizer (PFE) and Novavax (NVAX), and will have more than 60, 000 participants globally. The news helped to boost markets in pre-market action.

While two of the U. S. frontrunners employ mRNA technology, J&Jﾟs approach is more similar to AstraZeneca (AZN) which has halted trials in the U. S. after an unexplained illness in a participant in the U. K. trial. While the U. K. has resumed its Phase 3 trial, the U. S. continues to investigate.

J&Jﾟs candidate does not need the same deep-freeze temperatures for storage that are making the two leading candidates a challenge to distribute. The adenovirus vector technology does require refrigeration, but at a normal temperature that existing vaccine infrastructure uses, which bodes well for global distribution and production.

J&Jﾟs trials, done in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, adds to a growing portfolio of COVID-19 inoculation candidates in the U. S. that are being developed at a record-breaking pace.

ﾟFour COVID-19 vaccine candidates are in Phase 3 clinical testing in the United States just over eight months after SARS-CoV-2 was identified, ﾟ said NIAID director Anthony Fauci, in a statement.

ﾟThis is an unprecedented feat for the scientific community made possible by decades of progress in vaccine technology and a coordinated, strategic approach across government, industry and academia, ﾟ he added.

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