



Press Release – 25th March 2021

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## Bluephage becomes the first biotech company specializing in microbiological water analysis to achieve B Corp certification



Part of the Bluephage team in the laboratory of the University of Barcelona.

**Barcelona, 25 March 2021: Bluephage**, a benchmark company in the **biotechnology sector specializing in products for microbiological water analysis**, has become a **B Corp** for compiling with the highest standards in terms of social and environmental performance, transparency, and corporate responsibility.



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B Corporations (or B Corps) lead a global movement of people using the power of business to make a positive impact. They are a growing group of nearly 4,000 companies working to create systemic change and build an equitable, inclusive, and regenerative economic model for everyone and the planet.

**Bluephage** was born in 2016 at the University of Barcelona as a spin-off to promote and commercialize a patented technology developed at the **University of Barcelona by the Health-Related Water Microbiology - MARS group**, to reduce the result time of microbial water analysis to only 5 hours. For more than three decades, the MARS group has been studying bacteriophages as indicators of the microbiological quality of water, and this work has been the basis for the creation of the company Bluephage.

"At Bluephage, we are committed to our vision of **Safe Water for a Better World** and our mission to help millions of people around the world obtain safe water for drinking, hygiene, and agricultural uses. We will now reinforce these goals of **social, economic, and environmental sustainability with the B Corporation Certification**," says **Enric Queralt, CEO of Bluephage**.

In an international context where more than 2.5 billion people do not have access to safe water, Bluephage takes on the social responsibility to provide **a cost-effective and accessible solution for water testing laboratories, water supply, and sanitation companies, as well as water and health authorities** to perform regular environmental water testing reliably, quickly and efficiently. In line with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number six** - "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" - Bluephage's vision and purpose are to help thousands of people obtain safe drinking water.

In 2017, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** launched the fourth edition of the **Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality**. The chapter on water safety plans recommends using more robust indicators, such as **bacteriophages**, for microbial water quality testing and more frequent water testing for fecal indicator organisms to detect contamination and prevent waterborne diseases.

In early 2021, the **European Commission** adopted a new **Drinking Water Directive** that requires testing for **coliphages as a viral indicator in water** because when this virus is present, other pathogenic viruses may appear in the environment but in lower concentrations. Thus, monitoring this viral indicator can prevent some diseases related to human viruses. Given this reality, **the innovation offered by**



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**Bluephage is a revolutionary method to simplify and accelerate the detection and enumeration of coliphages in water.**

B Corp Certification measures management performance across the company and covers five key impact areas: Governance, Workers, Community, Environment, and Customers. The certification process is rigorous, must score more than 80 points, and provide evidence of socially and environmentally responsible practices, including energy supply, water, and waste use, workers' compensation, diversity, and corporate transparency. To complete certification, the company must legally incorporate its commitment to social purpose into its company bylaws.

**Eric Queralt, CEO of Bluephage**, comments: "Since 2016, **Bluephage** has been working to impact the prevention of a global water-related crisis positively, and now, in 2021, we are very proud to have achieved **B Corporation certification**. This certification recognizes and reinforces our mission, vision, values, how we engage with all our stakeholders and supply chain and ensure this commitment to our customers."

Recent attention in the **biotechnology and water testing sector** makes Bluephage's B Corp certification a significant step and signals a shift towards greater accountability and transparency in the industry. B Corp certification of Bluephage is a remarkable step and signals a shift towards greater accountability and transparency in the sector.

**Pablo Sanchez, CEO of B Lab Spain**, says: "We are delighted to welcome Bluephage to the B Corp community. This community works to reduce inequality, respect and regenerate the environment, strengthen communities and create high-quality jobs with dignity and purpose. Bluephage is a new member of the B Corp community, demonstrating by example how these results can be achieved".



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### **About Bluephage**

Bluephage is a biotech company specializing in products and services to analyze coliphages as viral indicators in water, food, and biosolids, launched as a spin-off company in 2016 from the University of Barcelona. Using an accelerated, patent-protected coliphage indicator test, our microbiological water quality testing products detect coliphages, a viral indicator used to alert of potentially pathogenic viruses that cause severe waterborne diseases. Our product line offers the fastest and easiest to use coliphage detection method currently available on the market for environmental water testing.

The Bluephage team, consisting of world-renowned experts in basic and applied microbiology and virology in water analysis methods, draws on more than 35 years of knowledge and experience developed at the University of Barcelona within the MARS (Microbiology of Water-Related to Health) group.

### **About B Lab Spain**

B Lab Spain is a non-profit organization that is transforming the global economy to benefit all people, communities, and the planet. As a leader in systemic change towards a new economy, our global network creates standards, policies, and tools for businesses and certifies those companies known as B Corp companies that are leading the way. It aims to drive a global movement of people using business to impact the world positively. Its initiatives include B Corp Certification, the implementation of social and environmental impact measurement systems through the B Impact Assessment, and support for governance structures such as collective interest and benefits companies. B Lab's vision is to foster an inclusive and sustainable economy capable of generating prosperity for all. Today, there are more than 3,800 certified B Corp companies worldwide from 150 industries and 74 countries, and more than 100,000 companies use the B Impact Assessment.