#### in-ovo sexing

NVTL Year Congress 18-3-2025

Hans Groot Koerkamp Johan Vermeulen





### **Vencomatic Group**

Poultry experts since 1983

BBaun.







# Orbem

A fast-growing AI company from Munich funded by the European Union

Award-winning technology funded by the European Union

Scanning of >95 million hatching eggs since January 2023





#### Pluriton



#### •family company

- owned by Erich Wesjohann (EW Visbek) + current management
- distributor in layer- and broilerindustry of HE, DOC and pullets of EW brands
- headoffice in Lunteren in Netherlands





**POP** Pluriton Opfokintegratie

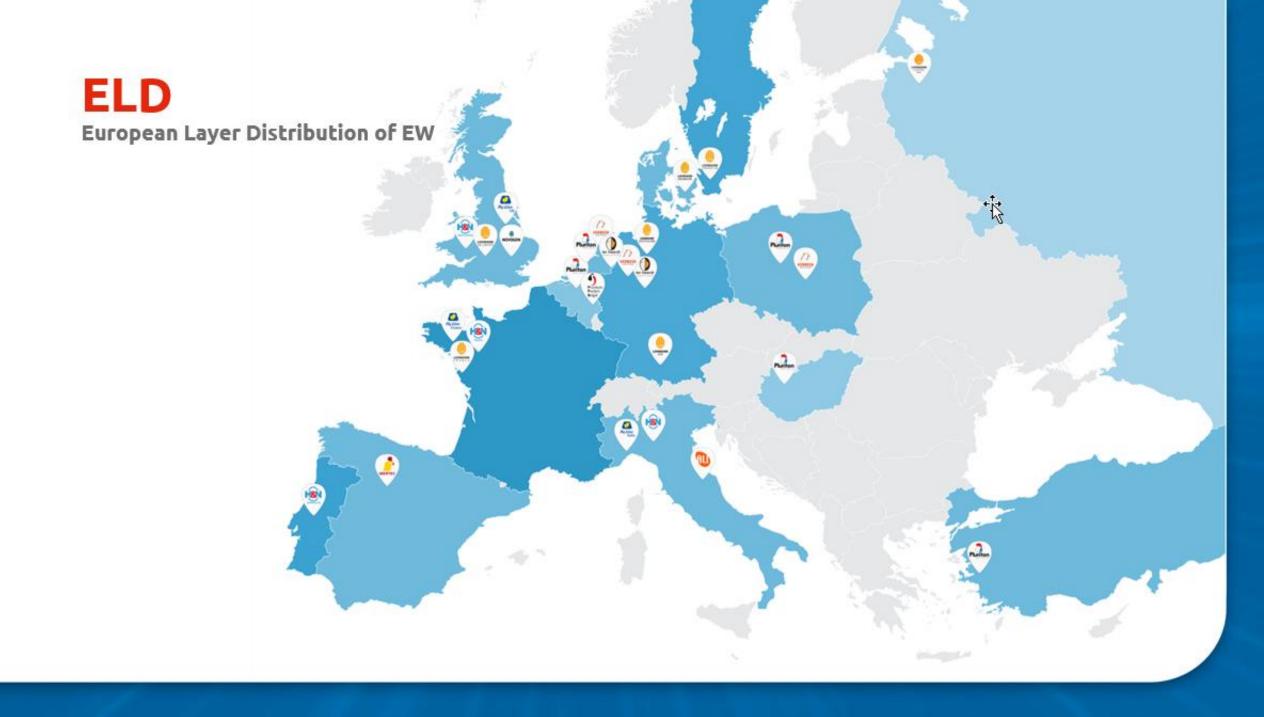
PPB Premium Poeljen Belgium

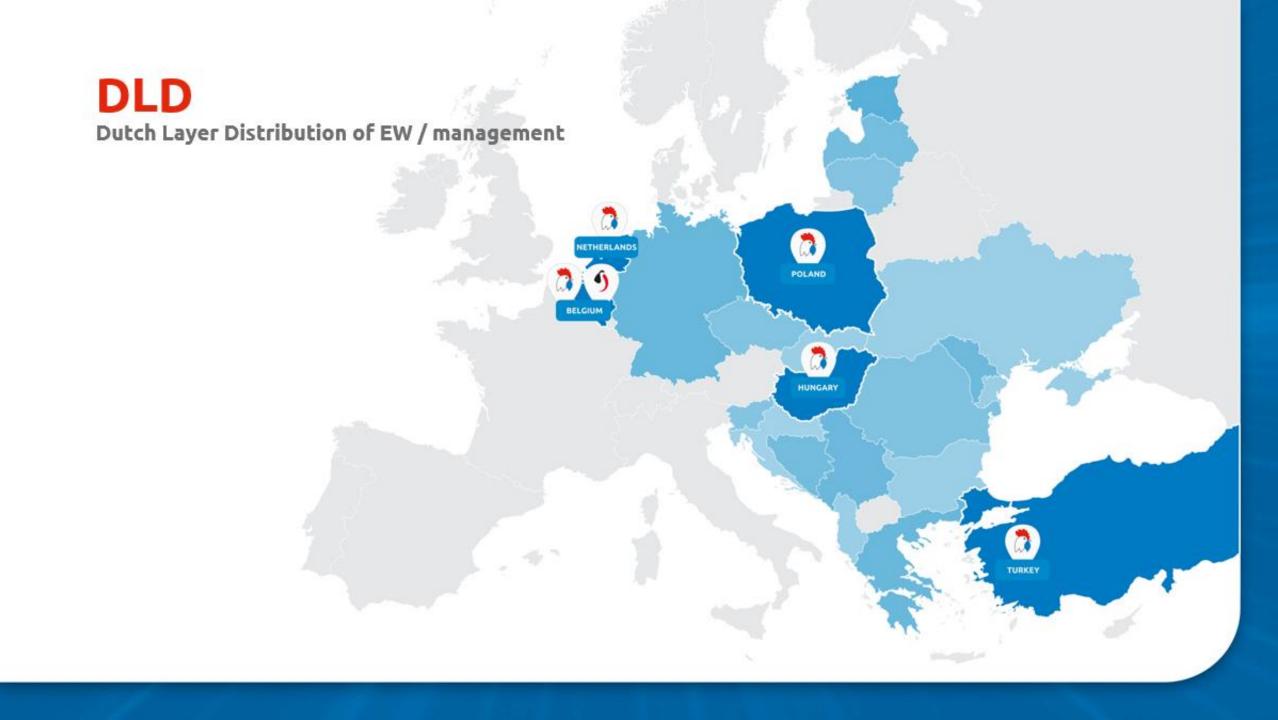
PPL Pluimveepraktijk Lunteren

JUIT

t Distribution by Region					
			<b>2</b>	NOVOGEN	ROSS
Country / Region	H&N	Lohmann	Hy-Line	Novogen	Ross308 <sup>1</sup>
Netherlands	~				~
Poland	~	<b>~</b>			
Belgium	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	~	✓	~
Germany	~				~
Hungary & <u>surroundings</u>	~	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	~		
Turkey					~
Global Export	1	J	1	J	1

<sup>1</sup> Ross308 sales are managed from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Turkey.





#### **DLD** Hatcheries

#### OKT

- Bladel = Genus Focus
- Veenendaal = <u>Cheggy</u> Zoom + hatch GF

#### MKT

- Afferden in Netherlands
- Arendonk in Belgium
- Babolna in Hungary

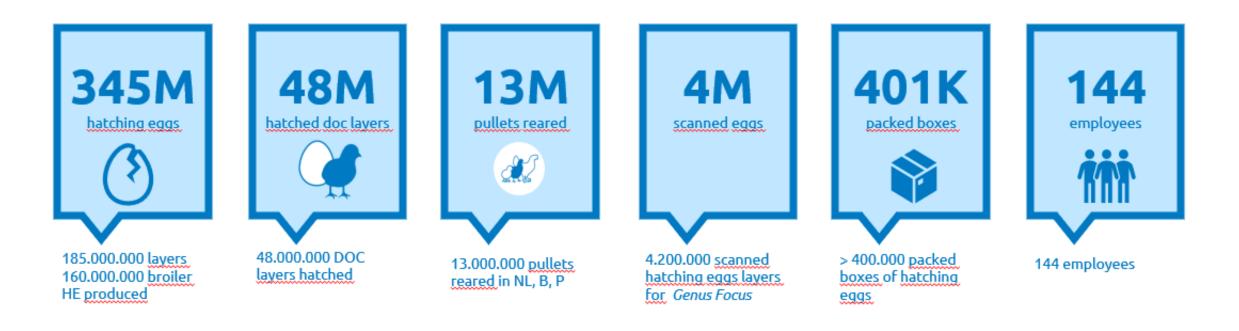
AFFERDEN BLADEL VEENENDAAI

ARENDONK

BABOLNA

#### **Pluriton in figures**







### **Ban on killing of male doc** start Germany

#### 2019 – legal ban start 1-1-2022





2023

Abschlussbericht Schmerzempfinden bei Hühnerembryonen

(HES 7-14)

Förderkennzeicher Geschäftszeiche Laufzeit Berichtszeitraum

2821HS005 323-06.01-2821HS005 15. Juni 2021 - 31. März 2023 15. Juni 2021 - 31. März 2023

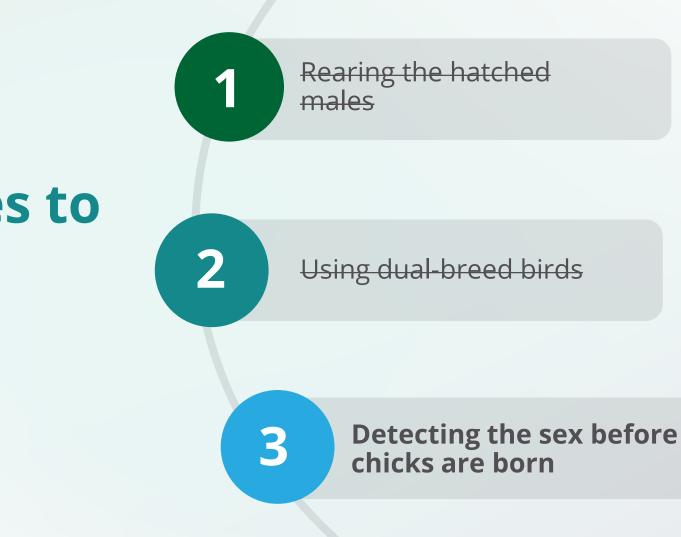
Projektleitung und Ansprechpartnerin

Prof. Dr. med. vet. habil. Christine Baumgartner

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#### Alternatives to male chick culling



# Drawbacks of other alternatives to male chick culling



# Rearing the hatched males

- Male layers have limited meat production and a poor feed conversion rate
- Difficulties with animal welfare
- Not fitted for regular slaughter lines and limited market for the product (size and price)
- Costs of 4.00 €-4.50 € per chick hatched

### Using dual-breed birds

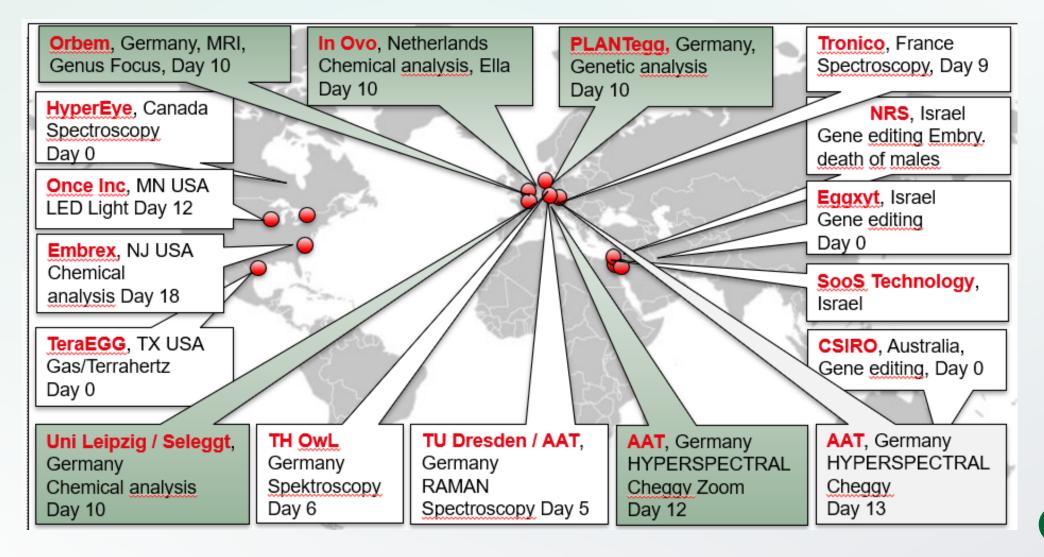
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- Roosters perform significantly better than regular layerrooster, worse than meatbroilers
- Hens perform significantly worse than regular layers
- Compromise of both worlds



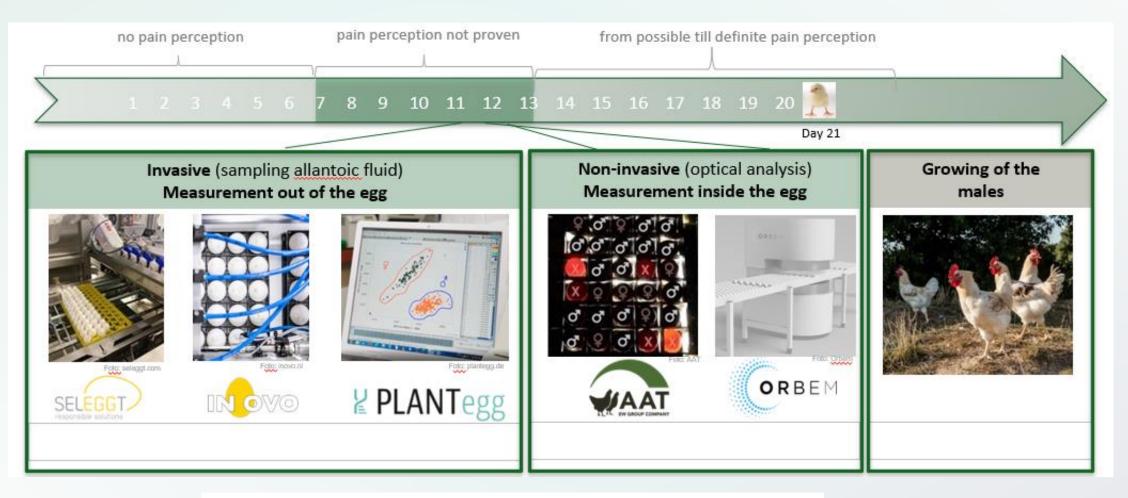


# Global technology sex determination in hatching eggs





### Workable options to the market



costprice increase DOC from about € 0,80 to € 4,00







**May 2022** 

Begin of strategic partnership for the Genus Focus

#### The start of our journey

Together, we combine expertise to bring the benefits of MRI to the poultry sector



3

January 2023 Start of production in France at two layer hatcheries





Pluriton as partner (signed 11-2023, operational 05-2024)





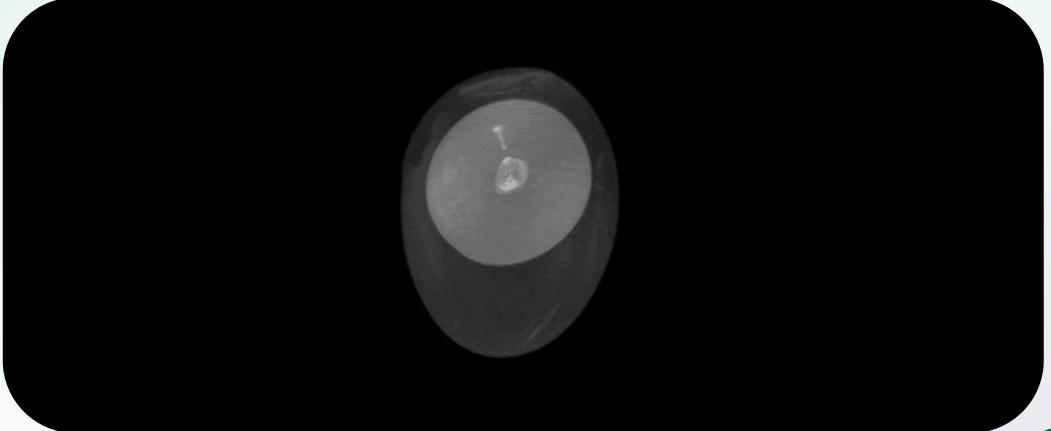






# Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

MRI is a non-invasive technology to visualize and characterize biological structures.

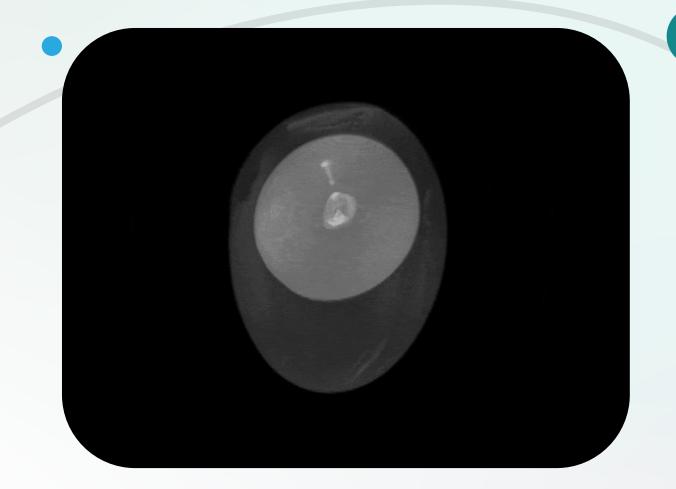


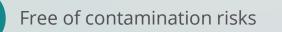




#### **Al-powered MRI for the industry**

We combine accelerated MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) with AI and state-of-the-art industrial automation to scan, classify and sort eggs before they hatch.

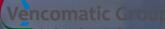




Completely contactless and non-invasive

Scan time of one second per egg enable industrial applications

Analysis of the anatomical differences in the reproductive organs



¢Y)

#### Contactless

- Scanning of the eggs without intrusion or sample extraction
- No effect on hatchability
- MRI does not emit radiation

#### Versatile

- Data acquisition limited to necessary features for sexing
- Full automation of the process
- Up to 24.000 eggs per hour

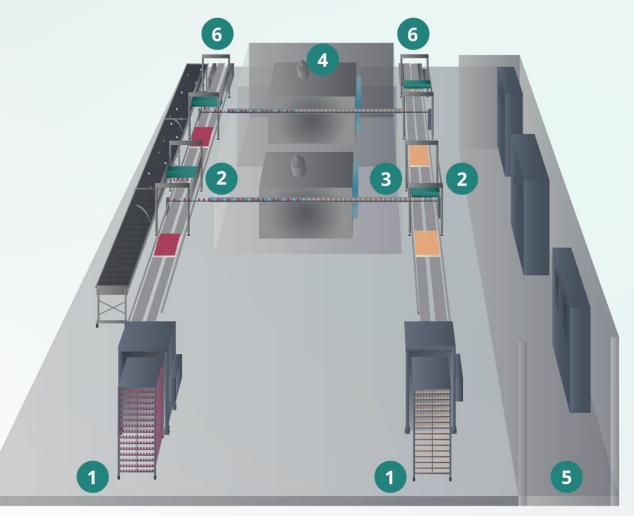
#### Accurate

- Independent of aviary bird breed or cleanliness of the shell
- More than 98% accuracy
- Stable performance



# **Full automation**

Every step from trolley-to-trolley is automated.







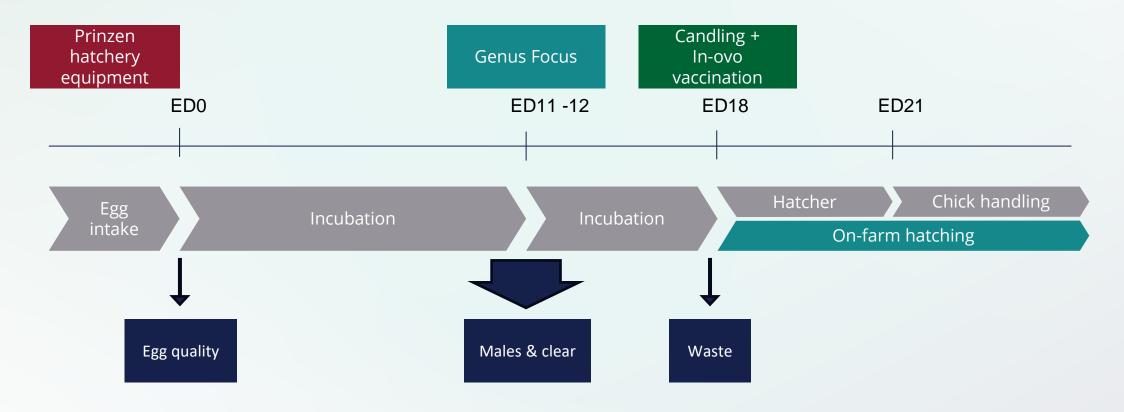
#### GENUS FOCUS

Female eggs are placed back in setter trays, seamlessly returning to the incubation process.



# **Possibility of On Farm Hatching**

Main processes and categories in the hatchery

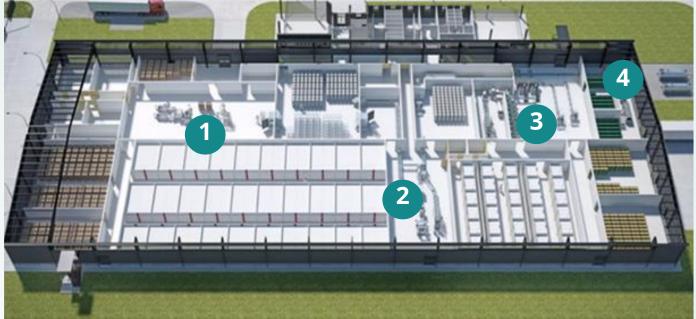






# **Possibility of On Farm Hatching**

Main processes and categories in the hatchery









### **Genus Focus**

Contactless in-ovo sexing for Germany (KAT conform), France and the rest of Europe





# Modular design

Multiple modules in parallel will match your production capacity and allow for scaling

Installation of the MRIs inside an **acoustic cage** for acoustic damping and safety purposes

2

1

3

Separate **technical room** for electronics and cooling equipment

Seamless **integration** to hatchery with trolley-to-trolley automation.



### Operations

#### One operator manages the whole system

#### **Operations and cleaning**

- Operation of in-ovo sexing by one hatchery operator
- Operable through standard automation system touchpads
- Cleaning at the end of a shift by one operator (1–2 hours) with standard cleaning procedures

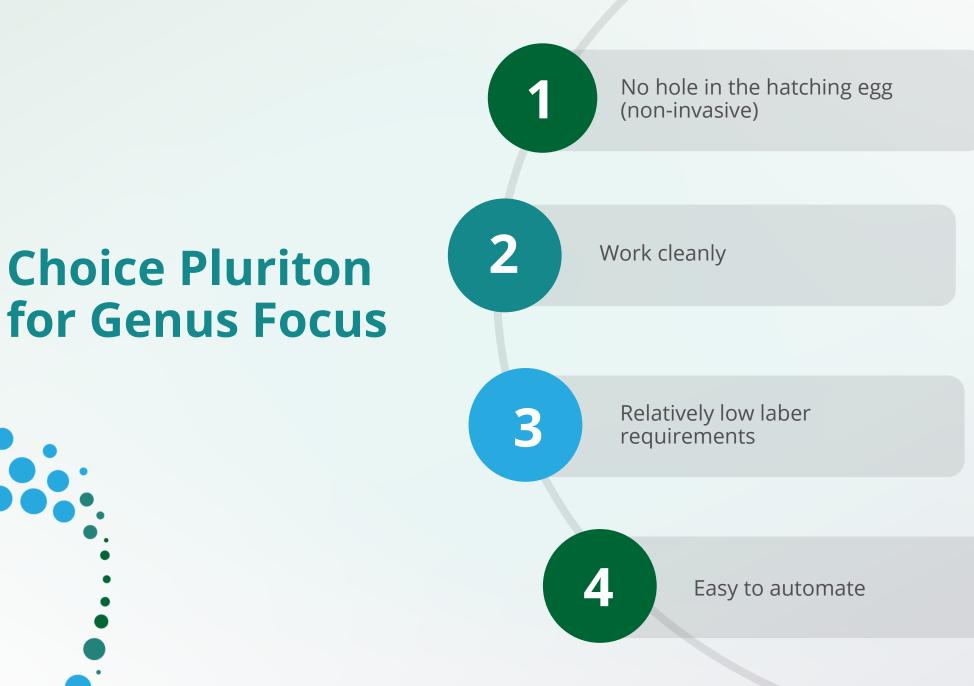
#### Maintenance

- The hatchery's maintenance personnel will be trained on common repairs of the automation equipment
- Regular system servicing by Orbem and the Vencomatic Group included

#### Consumables

- Helium: approx 500 € per module per year
- Printer Ink: approx 150 € per module per year









#### **Choice Pluriton for Genus Focus**











Very predictable technical results (n HE/DOC and n sex errors)

10

Good value for money – competitive compared to alternative

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Delivery of large volume 75.000 doc / day 250.000 doc / week



Rearing farms can be set up (again) in 1 week





# Pluriton in Bladel – seperate location

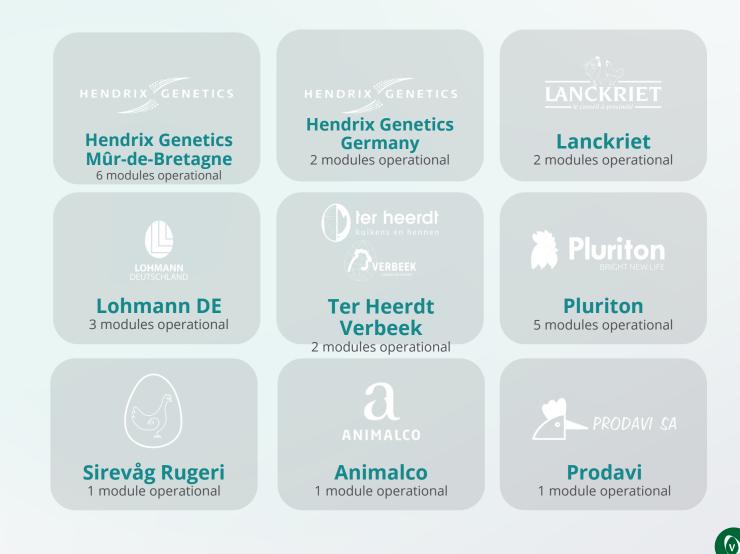
- Installation in existing hatchery where space becomes available is not ideal (walking lines) – rearrangement of hatchery takes time
- Construction / adjustment of hatchery permit process 1-2 years
- Seperate locatie Bladel advantage
  - make decisions quickly and operationally
  - OKT and MKT separate locations
  - MKT locations are not negatively affected in terms of costprice





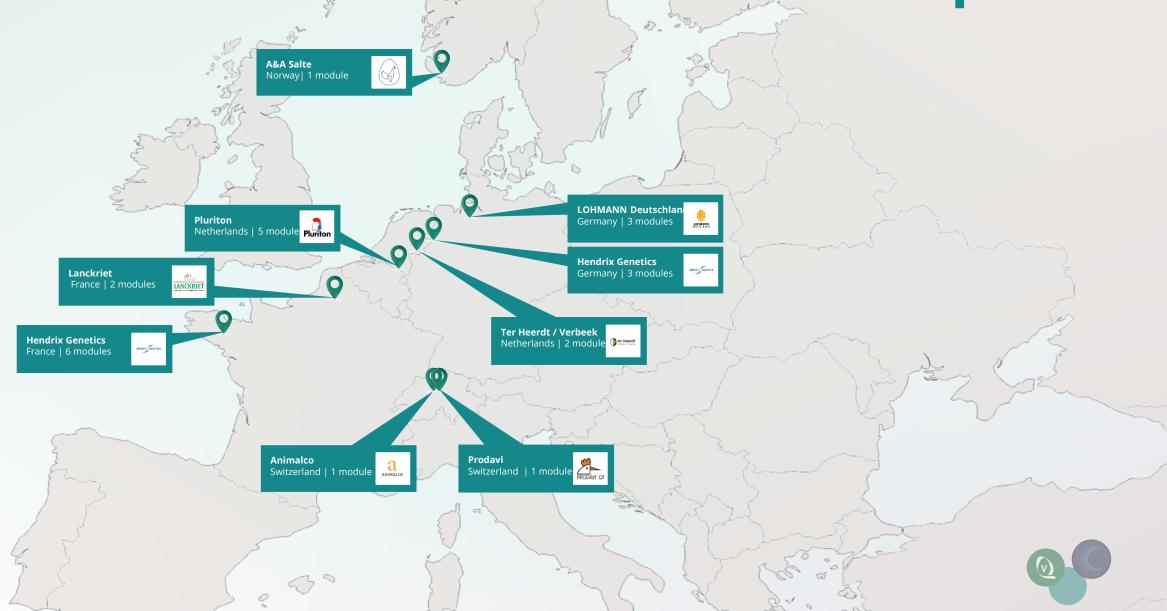
# Our existing customers







# **Genus Focus installations in Europe**

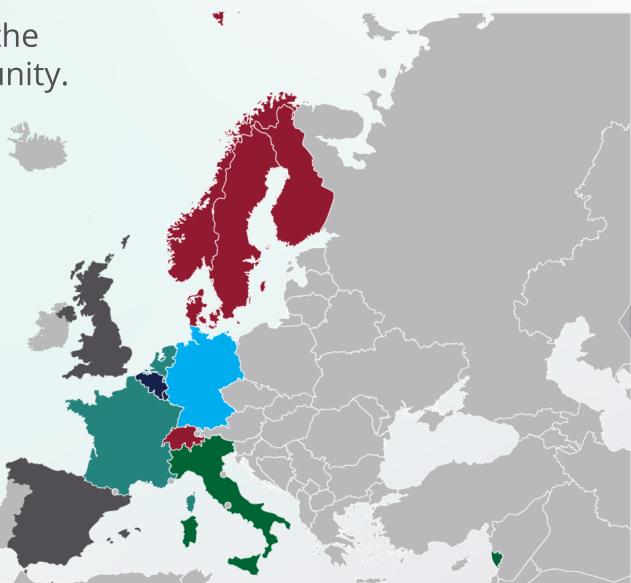




# **In-ovo Sexing in Europe**

Hatcheries across Europe recognize the business and animal welfare opportunity.

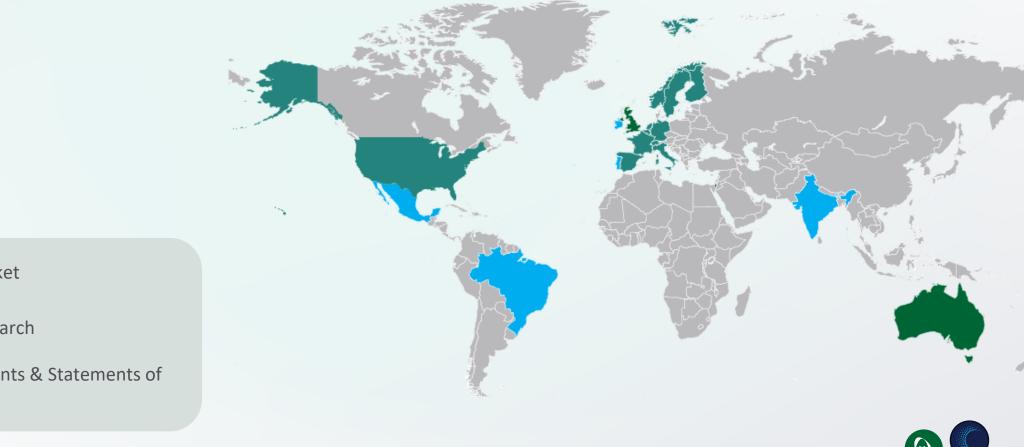
Germany	Legal ban since 01-01-2022. Stricter regulation from 2024 before day 13, rear sex mistakes of male
France	Legal ban since 01-01-2023, white layers exemption, before day 15, no obligation to rear sex mistakes of males
Netherlands	Netherlands introduce Roadmap in february 2025, Approach from market (layer industry) instead of law !! Cooperation of LTO-NOP / NVP, COBK, Ministery LVVN, Anevei and Dierenbescherming
Switzerland	Start in-ovo sexing in 2025 (no regulation)
Austria	Agreement with industry, before day 14
Scandinavia	Norway starts in-ovo sexing in 2024, other countries undecided
Italy	Legal ban from 01-01-2027, T&C defined in 2023, before day 14, no obligation to rear sex mistakes of males
Spain/UK	Progress towards industry-driven adoption
EU-wide ban?	Under discussion, when ?





### **In-ovo Sexing Worldwide**

The market for the Genus Focus for in-ovo sexing is regulation driven.



• In the market

- Active research
- Commitments & Statements of interest



### **European Retailers**

Marketing campaigns in Europe have caught consumers' attention.

European retailers launched the campaign "Ohne Kükentöten" (translates to: without culling of chicks) due to pressure from the society, accelerated by regulatory changes.

There are several consumer facing labels that hatcheries and egg producers can apply if they follow certain requirements and pay a small fee.

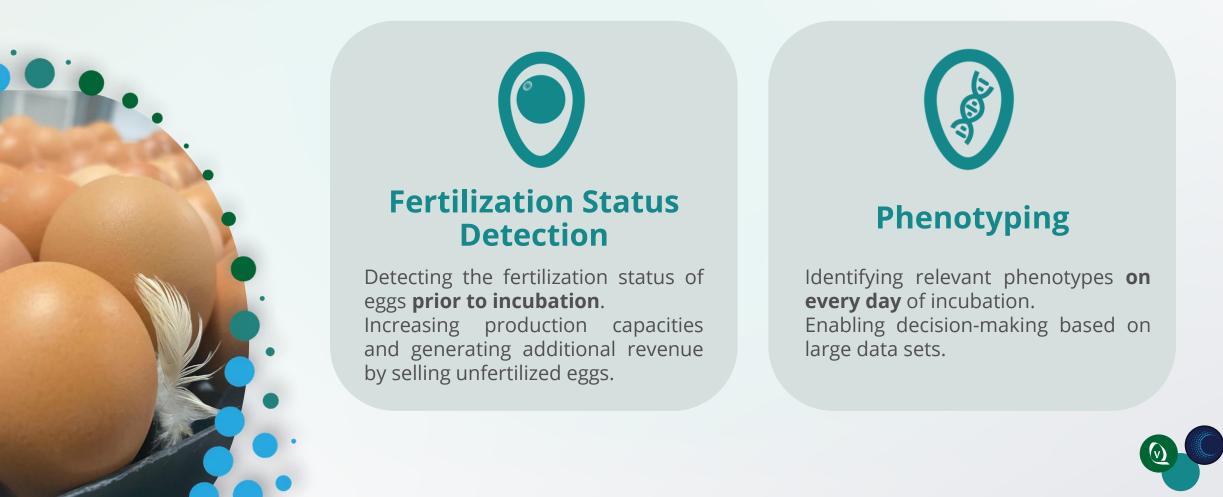
The most common labels are from <u>Aldi</u>, <u>Lidl</u> and the <u>Respeggt</u> Group.





### For in-ovo sexing and beyond...

Transforming the poultry industry into a more efficient, sustainable and animal-friendly industry.



### We are here to help



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