

Gates Foundation doubling efforts to use CRISPR to create mosquito-killing technology

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans to double the sum it is spending to create a mosquito-killing technology that relies on CRISPR gene editing.

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The Gates-funded project, called Target Malaria,...has [been seeking to add instructions to the DNA of malaria mosquitoes that would cause them to become sterile](#). If released in the wild, a gene drive could push these species to extinction.

Spokesman Bryan Callahan says the Gates Foundation will give Target Malaria an additional \$35 million, bringing Gates's total investment to \$75 million. That is the largest sum ever spent on gene-drive technology.

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The foundation previously said it plans to have a gene-drive approved for field use by 2029 somewhere in Africa. But Gates, the founder of Microsoft, offered more enthusiastic prognostications in comments made this summer, saying the technology might be ready in just [two years](#).

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The debate over [gene] drives could rival that over GMOs in its intensity and, ultimately, its global consequences. That is because, like GMO plants, the gene drives would affect our shared environment.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Bill Gates Doubles His Bet on Wiping Out Mosquitoes with Gene Editing](#)