UK to test new AIDS vaccine

LONDON, Friday

British scientists said yesterday

they planned to test a potential

Aids vaccine on humans later this

year in what could be a breakthrough

in preventing infection

and slowing the onset of Aids in

infected people.

The Medical Research Council

and the pharmaceutical company

British Biotechnology, which developed

the vaccine, said they hoped to' find 20 healthy

volunteers.

"This is an important stage in

the development of what could be

a breakthrough in vaccine technology,"

said Biotechnology

Chief Executive Mr Keith

McCullagh.

The Oxford-based company

said animal trial showed the vaccine

stimulated the production of

antibodies which could neutralize the HIV virus which causes Acquired

Immune Deficiancy

Sydrome.

"This trial represents the first

human testing of .'3ritish

Biotechnology's virus-like particle

Technology which we believe

has the potential of leading to the'

creation of a new generation of

anti-viral vaccine

Mr McCullagh said. Reuters