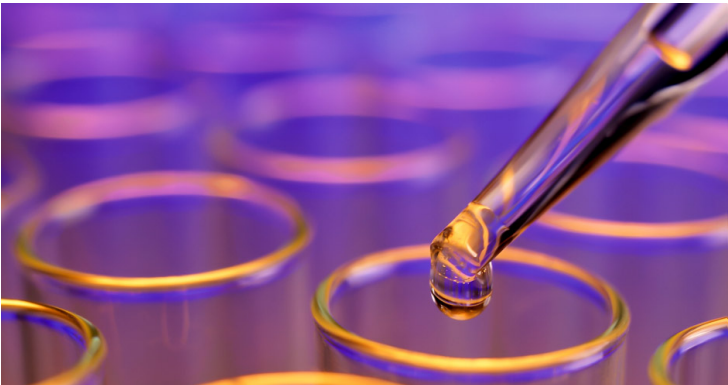


Merck to invest €150M for manufacturing biotech medicines

02 April 2019 | News | By Kalyani Sharma

The investment will cover a new building dedicated to Merck biotech medicines destined for more than 150 countries



Merck has announced an investment of €150 million in its manufacturing site at Aubonne, Switzerland, to expand manufacturing capacity for its biotech medicines. The investment will cover a new building dedicated to Merck biotech medicines destined for more than 150 countries, helping to meet increasing patient needs for flagship medicines such as fertility treatment Gonal-f®, newly launched therapies such as cancer drug Bavencio® and potential future products currently in clinical development such as cancer investigational treatment M7824 (bintrafusp alfa).

Belén Garijo, Member of the Executive Board of Merck and CEO Healthcare said, “This investment reflects our commitment to ensuring that our medicines always meet the highest quality standards and are readily available to patients all over the world whenever they need them. It is an expression of our confidence in the future growth of our Healthcare business sector.”

Philippe Leuba, Vaud State Councillor said, “With this latest investment, Merck is taking one step further towards a strong positioning of the Canton de Vaud as a Health Valley, which already includes 360 companies, 400 laboratories and 20,000 jobs. Merck’s presence in the Vaud canton is highly valued and this further investment will have a lasting and positive impact on the region.”

The new building will be equipped with technologies dedicated to aseptic filling and quality control, with an innovative design and a flexible operations model to deliver increased productivity. The new lines for the aseptic filling of biotech medicines will be equipped with isolator technology, representing best practice in aseptic filling to ensure the safety of injectable medicines. One line will be dedicated to freeze-dried formulations, the other to liquid formulations. These two new lines, as well as the new quality control labs, will replace existing infrastructure with technological upgrades and higher capacity allowing to produce up to 27 million vials per year.

The construction of the new building is expected to be completed in 2020, with the new quality control labs operational in 2021 and the new lines for aseptic filling in 2023, following validation by regulatory authorities. Everything will be designed to comply with the highest international standards of quality, environment, health and safety.

The Aubonne and Vevey sites are part of a network of 18 manufacturing sites worldwide dedicated to the production of Merck's biotech and pharmaceutical medicines and serving 70 million patients across the globe each and every day.