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The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"We are looking forward to this collaboration with Sanofi. This agreement reflects the strategy of Boehringer Ingelheim to be dedicated and committed to the manufacturing of highly innovative new biologic entities," said Dr Uwe Býcheler, corporate SVP, Boehringer Ingelheim Biopharmaceuticals.

Today, 72 percent of Sanofi's R&D projects are in biologics, nearly half of which are monoclonal antibodies (mAbs).

Under the terms of the agreement, Sanofi will have access to Boehringer Ingelheim's capabilities in Biberach an der Riss, Germany, to transfer and manufacture therapeutic mAbs.

Initial product transfers will begin in early 2015.

"Boehringer Ingelheim is a highly capable and experienced partner to complement our continued alliance with Regeneron

and the investments we are making in building our own internal capabilities as we prepare for a wave of potential new product launches in the coming years," said Mr Wolfram Carius, SVP, Biologics, Sanofi. "This collaboration reinforces Sanofi's commitment to our strong biologics pipeline and will enable us to take the necessary steps to provide access to high quality therapeutic monoclonal antibodies to meet the needs of patients."