

Sanofi invests â,~300 mn to expand biologics site in Belgium

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The investment in Geel, Belgium, furthers Sanofi's commitment to driving the future of biologics by expanding manufacturing and commercial capabilities in order to ensure quality, capacity, and scale.

Through the investment, Sanofi plans to adapt and expand existing production capabilities to support Sanofi's pipeline of monoclonal antibodies.

Updates to the existing facility will include the development of new laboratories focused on quality control and manufacturing sciences.

"This investment not only strengthens our goal of becoming a leader in biologics but represents our focus on patients' needs," said Mr Philippe Luscan, Executive Vice President, Global Industrial Affairs and President of Sanofi in France. "We have a robust development pipeline of biological molecules, including monoclonal antibodies, and this investment furthers our work and expertise in key disease areas such as cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and atopic dermatitis. This is an exciting opportunity for our site in Geel and we are very pleased with the support we received from the Government of Flanders, the Flanders Investment and Trade and the Flanders Entrepreneurship agency."

Sanofi and its specialty care global business unit, Sanofi Genzyme, have already invested â,~600 million in the Geel site, which began industrial biotech activities in 2001.

The site is currently responsible for the global production of a protein therapy for Pompe disease, a rare, genetic muscular disease that is often fatal.

The protein therapy is produced using cell cultures in large bioreactors, followed by a purification process.

Through this latest investment, the state-of-the-art facility will add more than 8000 sq m of manufacturing floor space, enabling the site to increase its overall production capacity and diversify to other drugs and therapeutic areas.

In support of this expansion, Sanofi intends to recruit and leverage the expertise of highly-skilled biotechnology professionals to fulfill a range of job functions.

"As an open economy, Flanders thrives on international trade and investments," said Mr Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of Flanders. "Life sciences is a sector with many innovative opportunities, not only for multinationals but also for small and medium sized enterprises. Locally, we have succeeded in attracting significant investments year after year and the Government of Flanders is right to keep investing heavily in this sector. Sanofi's decision to select Flanders reinforces our expertise and professional talent to support these types of investments."