

## **Pfizer, GSK sign productivity pact with Singapore's A\*Star**

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Singapore: Pharma industry leaders Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline have joined hands with global engineering giants Siemens together, to sign a productivity pact as founding members of a new consortium. The consortium that has been set up by Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*Star) will aim at addressing challenges such as costs, regulatory compliance and processes to bring drugs from trials to markets.

In essence, the initiative aims to address an increasingly urgent need to access emerging 'next generation manufacturing' technologies that the members said would provide quantum change improvements in cost, quality, environmental impact and process robustness.

The programme also offers a unique platform for members to interact, develop and grow the industry-processing technology knowledge base by facilitating technology transfer and manpower development.

Mr George Routhier, Managing Director at Pfizer Asia Pacific said, "For Singapore's manufacturing business to sustain global competitiveness, employing technological advancements in the areas of energy management and manufacturing operations is essential."

Lim Hock Heng, head of GSK's sites in Singapore further added, "At a time when companies in the pharmaceutical industry are challenged on speed in new product development, manufacturing process innovation, consistency in product quality, regulatory conformance and environmental sustainability, an integrative approach to the application of cutting-edge technologies will be crucial to future success."