

Novartis invests \$160 million for eyecare in Asia

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Singapore: In response to the growing demand for eye drugs in Asia, Novartis subsidiary Alcon, has opened a new \$160m facility, to manufacture its ophthalmic drugs. The facility intends to produce ophthalmic products, that treat dry eye, allergies, bacterial infections and glaucoma, which is the leading cause of blindness in Singapore.

"Alcon is a global leader in eye care, and they adhere to strictest quality standards", boasted Mr Roy Acosta, area president, Alcon Asia-Pacific.

"This is a strategic decision to expand, based on the growing need for eye care in Asia. Singapore is a key location with highly skilled workforce and economic stability, which makes it easier to expand capacities there," said the firm.

According to Mr Costa, the merging with Novartis, has helped Alcon to leverage its brand across all three zones of business-surgical, pharmaceutical and Vision Care.

This helps Alcon to meet the visual needs of its growing base of customers in Singapore. Currently, the facility has 150 employees which is expected to grow with increase in production.

"Singapore looks forward to creating exciting offers and job opportunities by strengthening the relationship with Novartis and Alcon", said Mr Yeoh Keat Chuan, Managing Director of the Economic Development Board.