

Merck aims to expand its China business

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Singapore: Leading pharma giant Merck has reinforced its commitments towards China, in a bid to strengthen its position among emerging markets. Merck aims to construct its pioneering new pharmaceutical plant in Nantong, China, which would be the group's second largest pharmaceutical manufacturing facility globally.

Merck currently employs more than 2,000 people at over 40 sites in China, with the most important products including Erbitux to treat cancer, Gonal-f to treat infertility as well as life science tools and liquid crystals (LC) for flat panel displays.

Mr Karl-Ludwig Kley, chairman of the Executive Board, said that Merck aims to explore strategic ways to satisfy the unmet medical needs of the Chinese people, with support from government officials, customers, partners and highly motivated local colleagues.

Merck has a strong presence in the fast-growing emerging markets with 9 percent inflation in sales last year in China. Merck is known for its diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and thyroid drugs which are referenced in China's Essential Drug List (EDL), making Merck the first and only multinational company in China that manufactures drugs catering to public healthcare needs.