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AbbVie launches API facility in Singapore

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Singapore: Global biopharmaceutical company AbbVie has launched small molecule active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturing facility in Singapore.

The new 120,000 square-meter site, located in the Tuas Biomedical Park, is AbbVie's first manufacturing facility in Asia and will also include a biologics manufacturing facility that is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2018.

Combined, the API and biologics facilities represent a USD320 million (SGD400 million) investment in Singapore that will employ more than 250 new employees, the majority of whom will be hired locally in Singapore, including skilled positions across manufacturing, technical operations, administration, quality, information technology and supply chain.

"Our goal as AbbVie is to assure patients around the world have access to new and innovative medicines when they need them and where they need them," said Dr Azita Saleki-Gerhardt, senior vice president, operations, AbbVie. "Today, with the opening of the first phase of our Singapore facility, we will further strengthen our manufacturing capabilities and continue to enhance our support of AbbVie's pipeline in the therapeutic areas of oncology and women's health for patients around the world."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Site Director Dr Marc O'Donoghue, added, "Singapore is recognized as a leader in the biopharmaceutical industry and AbbVie is excited to open its facility and begin operations. Singapore has a robust infrastructure, a highly educated and skilled workforce and provides a supportive environment for manufacturing. Our presence in Singapore establishes AbbVie's footprint in Asia and provides geographic balance in AbbVie's manufacturing network to ensure continuity of supply."

"AbbVie's choice of Singapore for its first in Asia manufacturing facility is testament to our capabilities as a high-quality, global biopharmaceutical manufacturing hub. Given our track record of providing a world-class business environment and skilled talent pool to companies, we enable companies such as AbbVie to develop and manufacture innovative products to deliver value for patients worldwide," said Ms. Weng Si Ho, director, biomedical sciences, Singapore Economic Development Board

(EDB). "EDB will continue to commit strong investments in talent, infrastructure and technology to support the strong growth in the biopharmaceutical industry."

AbbVie's manufacturing network now includes 13 locations across the United States, Europe, Asia and Puerto Rico, as well as strategic partnerships with third-party manufacturers.