

Samsung BioLogics nears finish line with massive biologics manufacturing project

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The mechanical installations at the \$750 million facility, which include a dozen, 15,000-liter bioreactors, should be wrapped up in the fourth quarter of the year, the company said in an update to FiercePharmaManufacturing. At 118,618 square meters, the plant will be about twice the area of a standard World Cup stadium.

The 180,000-liter capacity facility will be able to manufacture 4,500 kilos of biologics products annually once it becomes fully operational, the company said. Commercial production is expected to begin in 2020. Samsung BioLogics has about 1,700 employees, which will increase by another 340 to 500 employees with the addition of the new plant.

Announced in 2015, the new facility is being erected next to two others that Samsung BioLogics has already completed and will give the company a total capacity of 362,000 liters. Samsung said it will have invested 3 trillion won, about \$2.6 billion, in the massive buildup.

"This is the plant we used all the know-hows we accumulated through building three plants in such short time. The overall construction is a little over 70% complete," said Segang Park, engineer project management team leader, who has been involved in the construction of all three facilities. "Not only it has the largest capacity, it has the newest, technologically advanced facilities in the world."

All three will have been constructed in the last seven years. That was made possible, according to Samsung, by the deep experience and expertise the parent company has from having built 23 semiconductor plants and more than 50 petrochemical plants. The company has used design and build processes that allow it to do "design, procurement, construction, and validation activities in parallel." 3D modeling expedited the complicated design and installation of the plants' pipes and vessels.

"As a result, capital expenditure per production is approximately 40% lower than our first plant, which was built to industry standards," the company said in its announcement.