

Australia's Cochlear plans expansion in China

14 July 2017 | News

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Bionic ear implant maker Cochlear is expanding its global manufacturing capacity with a new \$50 million facility in China.

Cochlear will build the plant in the western Chinese city of Chengdu and hopes to have the first units rolling off the assembly line in four years once it has gained the necessary regulatory approvals. At full production, the plant will boost Cochlear's implant production capacity by 50 per cent.

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Cochlear has previously manufactured the implants only in Australia, although it has plants for other products in the United States, Sweden and Belgium it owns following acquisitions.

Cochlear is based in Sydney, on the Macquarie University campus, and has a manufacturing facility there, along with others in Lane Cove and Brisbane.