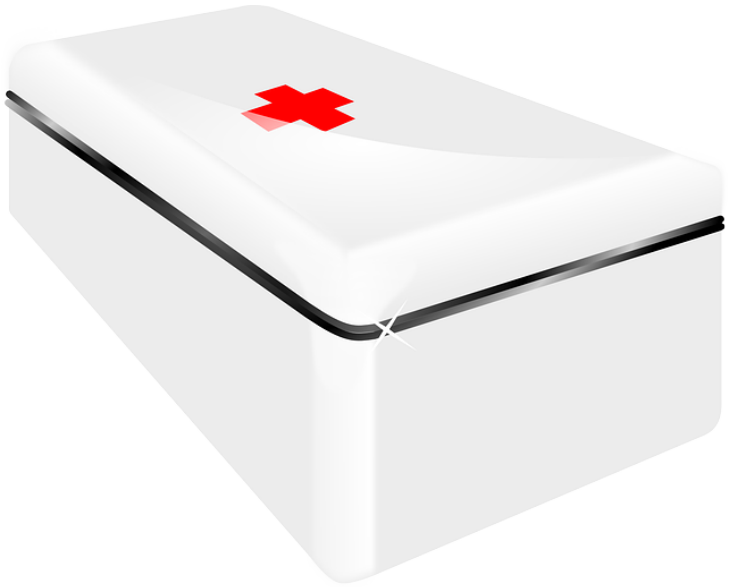
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Malaysia's AJ Biologics to build new vaccine facility

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The vaccine factory is designed to support the production of 12.5 million units of liquid injection vials, 10 million units of lyophilised injection vials and 10 million units of liquid in pre-filled syringes



As per reports in a leading Malaysian daily, a Saudi vaccine manufacturer will invest more than RM138.2 million in the next three to five years to establish Malaysia's first state-of-the-art vaccine manufacturing facility.

Malaysia's AJ Biologics Sdn Bhd will build the factory on a 1.8ha plot in Bandar Enstek, Negri Sembilan. Parent AJ Pharma Holdings Sdn Bhd executive director Selvam Ramaraj said the facility would adhere to the highest international accreditation standards, such as Good Manufacturing Practices. AJ Pharma was established in Malaysia by Aljomaih Group to meet the vaccine needs of the country.

In an interview with New Straits Times, Mr Selvam Ramaraj , said,"Beyond that, the investment will include operations and capacity building for the business and our partners, approval and licensing of vaccines in Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore, technology transfer and talent development, and vaccine co-development and partnerships."

Mr Selvam said in the interview, AJ Biologics aimed to make Malaysia a serious player in the global vaccine market by fulfilling market needs in Asean and the Middle East.

"AJ Biologics aims to reduce Malaysia's dependency on vaccine imports and eliminate the risks of shortages during emergencies or pandemic outbreaks."

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Selvam said there was a huge potential in Malaysia's vaccine industry. "Developing the right capabilities through investing in technology, innovation, research and development, and strategic partnerships will place AJ Biologics and Malaysia in good stead to be a significant regional and global vaccine player.

"By strengthening local production, we will help the nation become self-reliant, which further increases its vaccine security."

He said Malaysia was well-positioned to tap opportunities in the vaccine industry, which had a global market value of RM145.35 billion and a limited number of key industry players.

"This is what AJ Biologics aims to achieve for Malaysia as we develop our vaccine manufacturing facility here."

He said according to research, the global vaccine market was expected to grow to RM357.2 billion by 2022 from RM114.3 billion in 2012, driven by the prevalence of diseases, increase in government and non-government funding for vaccine development and investments by companies.