

For Immediate Use

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CPI led UK Biotech consortium secures £6.2m government investment

The Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) today announced that they have secured a multi-million pound investment via the Government's Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI) to support the development and manufacture of novel biologic treatments. The £6.2m investment will go towards the estimated total cost of the project which is around £11.3m.

The project, which is a joint bid with five other UK based organisations including UCB Celltech and Lonza Biologics, aims to overcome some of the most significant shortcomings of the current biologics supply chain and enable the continued delivery of cost effective therapies to patients. As a key member of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, CPI will supply technical expertise, facilities, and project management through the newly created National Biologics Manufacturing Centre (NBMC) based at Darlington.

The consortium will achieve its aims by adopting leading-edge technologies emerging from UK SMEs to target critical points in the biologics supply chain. Single cell analysis and cell sorting technology from *Sphere Fluidics* will increase the productivity of antibody analysis and development and lead to more high quality candidates entering clinical trials. *Horizon Discovery* will apply their gene editing technology to deliver flexible, low cost and efficient cellular systems to support the future needs of biologics manufacture. *Alcyomics Ltd* will contribute a novel tool to predict biologics safety and work with *CPI*, *Lonza* and *UCB* to establish methods and approaches to choose candidates with the lowest risk of failure.

The intended outcome of the project is to reduce the time it takes to bring biologics to market by increasing our ability to identify failing drugs earlier in development (i.e. those candidates likely to fail due to safety, manufacturing or formulation difficulties). The efficiency of manufacturing systems for the next generation of biologics molecules will be vastly improved. Additionally, the project proposes to create 23 new job opportunities and safeguard 174 existing jobs by March 2022.

Dr Chris Dowle, Director of Biologics at CPI said *"We are delighted to have received the government's support on this project. The consortium of companies behind this project is well-equipped to streamline the development process of biologics. The increasing emphasis on stratified medicines means that supply chains that were initially designed to deliver a few traditional blockbusters in large quantities must be adapted to develop and manufacture a higher number of diverse therapies. Our goal is to find innovative ways to make this transition while also ensuring affordability."*

"Our goal is to help integrate in a seamless way the design and selection of lead therapeutic candidates with novel approaches to process development and manufacturing, which is expected to help streamline bio-therapeutic

development and improve its efficiency compared with existing practices in the industry,” said Marc Funk, COO of Lonza’s Pharma&Biotech segment. “Further, the project aims to strengthen the biotechnology ecosystem in the UK by developing closer interactions between technology innovators, pharmaceutical companies, contract research and manufacturing organisations, and health care providers – all of whom are working towards a common goal.”

Notes to the Editor

About CPI

The Centre for Process Innovation is a UK-based technology innovation centre and part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult. We use applied knowledge in science and engineering combined with state of the art development facilities to enable our clients to develop, prove, prototype and scale up the next generation of products and processes.

Our open innovation model enables clients to develop products and prove processes with minimal risk. We provide assets and expertise so our customers can demonstrate the process before investing substantial amounts of money in capital equipment and training. New products and processes can be shown to be feasible; on paper, in the lab and in the plant before being manufactured at an industrial scale.

By utilising our proven assets and expertise companies can take their products and processes to market faster. There is no down time in production as all of the process development is completed offsite and our technology transfer and engineering teams can help companies to transfer the product or process into full scale production at speed.

www.uk-cpi.com

About Lonza

Lonza is one of the world’s leading and most-trusted suppliers to the pharmaceutical, biotech and specialty ingredients markets. We harness science and technology to create products that support safer and healthier living and that enhance the overall quality of life.

Not only are we a custom manufacturer and developer, Lonza also offers services and products ranging from active pharmaceutical ingredients and stem-cell therapies to drinking water sanitizers, from the vitamin B compounds and organic personal care ingredients to agricultural products, and from industrial preservatives to microbial control solutions that combat dangerous viruses, bacteria and other pathogens.

Founded in 1897 in the Swiss Alps, Lonza today is a well-respected global company with more than 40 major manufacturing and R&D facilities and approximately 9,800 full-time employees worldwide. The company generated sales of about CHF 3.64 billion in 2014 and is organized into two market-focused segments: Pharma&Biotech and Specialty Ingredients.

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