



Media Release

Singapore, 3 November 2009

Roche opens its first biologics manufacturing site in the Asia-Pacific region

Roche, a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, today held the dedication ceremony for its biologics manufacturing site in Singapore at the Tuas Biomedical Park.

The fully-owned Roche subsidiary is established in Singapore under the name Roche Singapore Technical Operations, Pte. Ltd. With a combined investment of approximately US\$500 million, the site is comprised of two state-of-the-art facilities which use two different production technology platforms to manufacture biologic medicines. Currently employing approximately 330 highly-skilled workers, the facilities occupy approximately 12.6 hectares.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, Dr Franz B. Humer, Chairman of Roche, said: "This world-class operation in Singapore will – as a cornerstone of our global manufacturing network – support us in accomplishing our mission of helping people live better lives through our novel medicines. It will play an important role in building Roche's presence in Asia-Pacific and will join a strong network of manufacturing excellence and expertise with more biotech production capacity of any company worldwide."

The facilities were initially developed and purchased by Genentech, Inc., a wholly-owned member of the Roche Group, and are now operating as Roche Singapore Technical Operations. The site marks Roche's first biologics manufacturing presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The Singapore site is an important part of Roche's global manufacturing network, which includes biotechnology facilities in California (USA), Penzberg (Germany), Basel (Switzerland) and now Singapore. Roche Singapore Technical Operations is expected to be the first company in Singapore to produce licensed

biotherapeutics using recombinant DNA technologies.

On the selection of Singapore, Dr Patrick Y. Yang, Executive Vice President, Genentech Technical Operations, who will assume the role of Head of Global Technical Operations of Roche Pharma in January 2010, stated: “As we supply a global market, Singapore offers important advantages to Roche’s manufacturing network, including a skilled labour pool, nearby biotechnology expertise and a supportive business environment.”

Said Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Finance, Singapore: “Singapore is proud to be Roche’s first site for biologics manufacturing in Asia. It expresses a number of things that are making Singapore’s future – cutting-edge manufacturing technologies, the commercialisation of science, a commitment to develop a top-quality workforce and the deepening partnerships that leading global players are forging with Singapore.”

One of the two facilities manufactures biotherapeutics derived from bacterial cell cultures and is to produce Lucentis® (ranibizumab injection), which is used to treat patients with wet age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness in people over 55. The facility, on which construction began in the second quarter of 2007 by Genentech, is expected to receive U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensure in the first half of 2010. Designed as a multi-product facility with a fermentation capacity of 1,000 litres, the 12,000 square-metre single-storey facility is capable of producing other bacterial products in the future.

The second facility will produce medicines using mammalian cell cultures. Purchased from Lonza by Genentech in August 2009, the facility will manufacture Avastin® (bevacizumab), a targeted cancer therapy which has proven survival benefits across multiple tumour types such as colorectal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, brain cancer and renal cell carcinoma. The building is expected to receive U.S. FDA licensure for production of Avastin in the fourth quarter of 2010. With 80,000 litres of production capacity, the 27,000 square-metre facility has future plans to manufacture Herceptin® (trastuzumab), a humanised monoclonal antibody which is established as the foundation of care for patients with HER2-positive breast cancer and has recently also been shown to prolong the lives of patients suffering from HER2-positive gastric cancer.

About Roche

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and CNS. Roche is also the world leader in in-vitro diagnostics, tissue-based cancer diagnostics and a pioneer in diabetes management. Roche's personalised healthcare strategy aims at providing medicines and diagnostic tools that enable tangible improvements in the health, quality of life and survival of patients. In 2008, Roche had over 80,000 employees worldwide and invested almost 9 billion Swiss francs in R&D. The Group posted sales of 45.6 billion Swiss francs. Genentech, United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche has a majority stake in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information: www.roche.com.

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