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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES COMPANIES STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH SINGAPORE  
TO ADDRESS INDUSTRY'S CHALLENGES**

1. Global biomedical sciences companies strengthened their partnerships with Singapore to address the industry's challenges in 2009, and Singapore is well-positioned to be their home-base to harness Asia's growing opportunities. Last year, Singapore's biomedical manufacturing output grew steadily to about S\$21 billion and employed more than 13,000 people.
2. "The global biomedical sciences industry is confronted with the need to improve R&D productivity. At the same time, they need to navigate Asia's complexities and diversity to effectively tap into the region's fast-growing markets. As Asia's leading bio-cluster, Singapore is well-positioned to help biomedical sciences companies accelerate their innovation and capitalise on Asia's growth story," said Mr Julian Ho, Assistant Managing Director, Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB).
3. Biomedical sciences investments amounted to S\$1.2 billion in total fixed asset investment and S\$700 million in total business spending in 2009. When fully implemented, they will create more than 1,600 jobs for professionals, managers, engineers, research scientists and engineers, and skilled workers. The investments will also contribute S\$1.3 billion in value-added per annum.

4. In 2009, global biomedical sciences companies have located strategic functions in Singapore that include regional headquarters (e.g. Medtronic, Quintiles, Takeda), first-in-Asia and global manufacturing facilities (e.g. GlaxoSmithKline, Illumina, Lonza, Medtronic, ResMed, Roche) and R&D bases in Asia (e.g. Abbott, 3M, Merck, Roche, Inviragen, FORMA). These investments will strengthen Singapore's position as a strategic home-base to drive biomedical sciences companies' business expansion and innovation in Asia.
5. Singapore presents key advantages for companies that seek to address the impending patent cliff and develop innovative medical devices for Asia. Leading companies (e.g. AstraZeneca, Bayer, Lilly, Roche) are partnering Singapore's nationwide research network that integrates the country's multidisciplinary scientific and clinical capabilities. In addition, medical technology companies (e.g. 3M, AB Sciex, Hill-Rom, Welch Allyn) are tapping into Singapore's scientific and engineering capabilities to carry out value engineering and develop cost-effective products that can address Asia's healthcare needs. More than 4,300 researchers are carrying out biomedical sciences R&D in 50 companies and 30 public-sector institutes that expend more than S\$1 billion each year in R&D<sup>1</sup>.
6. As companies seek to expand their footprint in Asia to tap into the region's fast-growing healthcare markets, Singapore emerges a key beach-head site for both global companies and Asian enterprises. In 2009, leading Japanese pharmaceutical company, Takeda, opened its new regional headquarters that will work with its regional clinical trial coordination centre and R&D centre in Singapore to drive both business expansion and innovation in Asia. In addition, global medical technology leader, Medtronic, will manage its international operations from its newly opened regional and international headquarters in

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<sup>1</sup> Number of researchers and R&D expenditure in biomedical sciences are reported in A\*STAR R&D Survey 2008

Singapore, where it will also build its first-in-Asia cardiac device global manufacturing facility.

7. Singapore is committed to be in time for the future and is working with companies to create value, especially as biomedical sciences companies seek to optimise their global manufacturing operations while harnessing Asia's fast-growing markets. These partnerships include EDB's collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline to build up capabilities and develop solutions in sustainable manufacturing, and local suppliers' partnerships with MNCs to enhance their capabilities under EDB's new Partnerships for Capability Transformation (PACT) programme.
8. Besides building up capabilities in new growth areas, talent development is another key initiative to achieve top-line growth. A key example is EDB's partnership with A\*STAR and Stanford University to launch the Singapore-Stanford Biodesign Program that will nurture the next generation of medical device innovators in Asia. In 2009, EDB also partnered leading biomedical sciences companies to train Singaporeans in their global facilities in the U.S. and Europe.
9. "The biomedical sciences sector provides exciting and meaningful jobs in a broad spectrum of activities across manufacturing, R&D and business management in headquarters for Singaporeans across all education levels. It is an opportunity for Singaporeans to participate in shaping the future of human healthcare," added Mr Ho.

10. In 2009, there was an increase in about 900 positions in biomedical manufacturing alone. The growing base of biomedical sciences companies in Singapore present good career opportunities for engineering and science graduates, as well as experienced employees in related sectors such as the electronics, chemical and processing industries. Singaporeans will join companies' global manufacturing, business and innovation network to help advance human healthcare and improve the quality of lives of people worldwide.

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### **ABOUT THE EDB**

EDB is the lead government agency for planning and executing strategies to enhance Singapore's position as a global business centre and grow the Singapore economy. We dream, design and deliver solutions that create value for investors and companies in Singapore. In so doing, we generate economic opportunities and jobs for the people of Singapore; and help shape Singapore's economic future.

'*Host to Home*' articulates how EDB is sharpening its economic development strategies to position Singapore for the future. It is about extending Singapore's value proposition to businesses not just to help them improve their bottom line, but also to help them grow their top line. EDB plans to build on existing strengths and add new layers of capabilities to enable Singapore to become a 'Home for Business', a 'Home for Innovation' and a 'Home for Talent'.

For more information about Singapore's biomedical sciences sector, please visit [www.biomed-singapore.com](http://www.biomed-singapore.com) or [www.sedb.com/medtech](http://www.sedb.com/medtech)

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